FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-027
Thursday
8 February 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-027 *8 February 1990*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Headquarters Transfer to Cairo Viewed 1
Assistant Secretary Interviewed *[MENA]* 1
'Abd-al-Majid's Statement *[MENA]* 1
Arab League Welcomes Nelson Mandela's Release *[Tunis Radio]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Pakistani Kashmir Chief's Resolution Ratified *[Islamabad Radio]* 1
Islamic Congress To Seek Halt in Emigration *[Amman AL-RA'Y 1 Feb]* 1
ICO Statement on 'Threat' of Jewish Emigration *[SPA]* 2
'Abd-al-Majid Addresses Conference *[MENA]* 3
20th Anniversary Celebrated *[Cairo Radio]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Denies Claiming Israeli Bus Ambush *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
Islamic Jihad Denies Egyptians Captured Member *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Letter of 'Valiant Fedayeen' to Spouse *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
PNC Members Meet, Issue Statement on Emigration *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Summit To 'Confront Israeli Arrogance' Needed *[Baghdad VOP]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa Says Reports on Bus Incident 'Inaccurate' *[MENA]* 6
Briefs Cabinet on 'Savage' Attack *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Further Reaction to Attack on Israeli Tourists 6
Israel's Shalal Praises Officials *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Attack on 'Peaceful' Guests Decried *[AL-WAFD 6 Feb]* 7
Negative Effect on Peace Process *[AL-AKHBAR 6 Feb]* 7
Editor Questions Motives *[AL-AHRAM 6 Feb]* 7
Soviet Jews' Emigration to 'Palestine' Assailed *[AL-AKHBAR 4 Feb]* 9
Daily Attacks Shamir's Statement on Immigration *[AL-AKHBAR 17 Jan]* 9
Republic's Position on Terrorism Emphasized *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Feb]* 10
Commentary Stresses Need To Confront Terrorism *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Contradictions Seen in Israeli Position on Peace *[Cairo Radio]* 11

Libya

People's Congresses Cable Support for Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tripoli International]* 11
Soviet Industry Chamber Official Arrives 6 Feb *[JANA]* 12

Morocco

Lebanese President Appeals to King for Help *[Rabat Radio]* 12

Sudan

President Bush Receives New Sudanese Envoy *[SUNA]* 12

RCC Chairman Al-Bashir Speaks at Rallies 12
Al-Faw Rally 29 Feb *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
Al-Hasahisa Rally 4 Feb *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
Al-Managil Rally 6 Feb *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
Al-Bashir Announces Cotton Price Increase *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Government Reports 'Victory' Against Rebels *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
SPLA Radio Asks Juba Residents To Leave 14
Relations With Uganda Said Deteriorating *[BBC]* 14
Radio Reports Kidnapping of French Doctors *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
National Dialogue Delegation on Netherlands Visit *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
New Libyan Ambassador Presents Credentials 15
Received by Al-Bashir *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Meets With Council Member *[SUNA]* 15
Official Meets With Libyan on Refugee Aid *[SUNA]* 15
Al-Bashir Appoints Six New Ambassadors *[SUNA]* 15
Officials Review Operation Lifeline Progress *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Nationwide Sorghum Distribution Under Way *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Foreign Media Support for Rebels Condemned *[SUNA]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Media Reaction to Attack on Israeli Bus 17
U.S. 'Biased Behavior' Blamed *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 6 Feb]* 17
Palestinians 'To Triumph or Die' *[AL-QABAS 6 Feb]* 17
Reports, Statements Noted *[ARAB TIMES 6 Feb]* 18
Amir Views Soviet Jews' Emigration to Israel *[KUNA]* 19

Saudi Arabia

Suspect 'of Arab Appearance' Sought in Killings *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Feb]* 20

Yemen Arab Republic

Jordanian Minister Arrives With Husayn Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Jordanian, Libyan, Ethiopian Officials Meet Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 21

IRAQ

INA Cites Egyptian Spokesman on Bus Attack 22
Message of UN Delegate Reiterates Call on POW's *[INA]* 22
Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society Issues Statement *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

PLO List of Delegates to Talks Released *[MA'ARIV 8 Feb]* 24
Media, Official Response to Bus Attack Continues 24
Paper Supports Tripartite Meeting *[AL-NAHAR 7 Feb]* 24
Arab Media Fomenting 'Terrorism' *[Jerusalem International]* 25
'Radical' Parties Benefit *[AL-NAHAR 6 Feb]* 26
Thatcher Sends Condolences *[Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE 7 Feb]* 27
Arens Rejects Protest to Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
'No Evidence' of PLO Role *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Feb]* 27
Expected Events After Likud Conference Viewed *[HA'ARETZ 7 Feb]* 27
Arens on CPSU Surrendering Monopoly on Power *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Sununu Links Aid to Flexibility in Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Student Loan Agreement Signed With PRC *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
'Cautious Optimism' Expressed on USSR Flights *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
1 Killed, About 10 Wounded in Rafah Clashes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Arab Dies of Wounds; Another Murdered in Gaza *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30

No Casualties, Damage as 'Small' Charge Explodes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Engineers Corps Chief on Syrian Defense Upgrade *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
100th Soldier Refuses To Serve in Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
New Army Equipment Introduced; Houses Sealed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

Media Response to Attack on Israeli Tourists 32
Israel 'Hiding Behind' Incident *[AL-RA'Y 6 Feb]* 32
Paper Ridicules U.S. 'Anger' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Feb]* 32
Israel Must Take Blame *[THE STAR 8-14 Feb]* 33
Arab Deaths Ignored *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Feb]* 33
King Husayn Leaves on 'Working Visit' to Iraq *[Amman Radio]* 34
Commentary on Soviet Jewish Emigration Continues 34
U.S., Soviet Positions Criticized *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Feb]* 34
Columnist on Confronting Issue *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Feb]* 34
Ministry Stops Issuing Permits to New Workers *[Amman Radio]* 35

LEBANON

Cease-Fire Violations Continue 7 Feb *[VOL]* 36
LF Claim Adherence to Agreement *[VOL]* 36
'Awn Forces Tighten Control *[VOL]* 36
'Awn's Snipers Open Fire *[RFL]* 36
General 'Awn Holds News Conference 7 Feb *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 36
Sets Conditions To End Fighting *[AFP]* 36
Al-Huss Criticizes Statements *[VOM]* 37
'Awn Reportedly Prepares for 'Major Offensives' *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Security Committee Meeting Termed 'Positive' *[VOL]* 37
Papal Nuncio on 'Positive Responses' to Cease-Fire *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 37
Ja'ja' Appeals to Pope To End 'Suffering' *[VOL]* 38
PSP Leader Junblatt Deplores 'Mentality of Past' *[VOM]* 38
Al-Khazin Appeals to Fighters in Eastern Area *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Minister Rizq Appeals to Army, Sfayr on Fighting *[VOM]* 39
Al-Hirawi Postpones Arab Tour Amidst Violence *[VOL]* 39
Hizballah Claims Amal, Hubayqah Group Attacks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 39
Defense Minister, French Envoy Return From Paris *[VOM]* 39
UNIFIL Mandate Renewed for 6 Months *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Presidential Envoy Cited on Washington Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Jan]* 40

SYRIA

Damascus Radio Cites AFP on Bus Attack 41
Further Report on Attack *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Leaders Reportedly Allow New Political Parties *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 4 Feb]* 41
Commentaries View Emigration of Soviet Jews 41
TISHRIN Blames Moscow *[30 Jan]* 41
Emigration Called 'Crime' *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Action Against Emigration Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Fund Raising Criticized *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Minister on Trade Surplus, Export Policy Success *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Article Extols Relations With USSR *[SYRIA TIMES 30 Jan]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Seven Injured in 7 Feb Missile Attack on Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Keshtmand Holds Kabul News Conference 2 Feb *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Enemy Extremists 'Wiped Out' in Various Attacks *[BAKHTAR]* 49
Shindand Radio-TV Installations Commissioned *[BAKHTAR]* 49

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns Home After Foreign Tour *[Dhaka International]* 50
Police, Students Clash Over University Move *[AFP]* 50
Minister Explains Foreign Policy to Parliament *[Dhaka International]* 50
Minister Warns of 'Upheaval' Caused by Corruption *[AFP]* 51

India

'Mind-Boggling' Flow of U.S. Arms to Pakistan *[Delhi International]* 51
Commentary on U.S. Defense Budget Proposals *[Delhi International]* 52
Janata Dal Workers Protest at Pakistani Embassy *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Tibetans Burn Chinese Flag in Delhi Protest *[AFP]* 53
Bofors Probe Team Leaves for Switzerland, Sweden *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Premier Suggests Panel Resolve Shrine Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Kashmir 'Peaceful'; No Daytime Curfew in Srinagar *[Delhi Radio]* 54
'Subversives' Kill 2 BSF Personnel *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Forces 'Exceptionally Vigilant' *[Delhi TV]* 55
Minister on Press Restrictions *[Delhi Radio]* 55
9 Killed in 'Terrorist Violence' in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Naxalites Kidnap 4 Policemen, Seize Weapons *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Naxalites Release Policemen *[Delhi Radio]* 55

Iran

PFLP-GC, Hizballah Praise Attack on Bus *[Tehran International]* 56
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Foreign Ambassadors *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Next Round of Majles By-Elections Planned *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Khomeyni's Emphasis on Self-Sufficiency Cited *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Magazine Cited on Iranian-U.S. Claims Settlements *[IRNA]* 58
Impact of East-West Rapprochement Viewed *[Tehran TV]* 58
Editorial Criticizes U.S. Position on Azerbaijan *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 24 Jan]* 59
Radio Baku Urges Students To Resume Classes *[IRNA]* 60
Baku Commandant Orders Closure of Newspaper *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Velayati on Helping Resolve Azerbaijan 'Crisis' *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Jan]* 60
Majles Deputies' Use of Azeri Criticized *[ETTELA'AT 24 Jan]* 61
Paper Views Soviet Mediation in Peace Talks *[KEYHAN 24 Jan]* 61
President Sends Message to Turkey's Ozal *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Border Trade Agreement With Turkey Signed *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Daily Criticizes 'Blasphemous' Turkish Press *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 28 Jan]* 62
KEYHAN Calls For Expulsion of BBC Correspondent *[IRNA]* 63
Editorial Says 'Awn Seeks French, Iraqi Support *[IRNA]* 63
Velayati, Pakistani Scholar Discuss Kashmir Muslims *[IRNA]* 64
TEHRAN TIMES on Jammu, Kashmir 'Crisis' *[31 Jan]* 64
Natural Gas Exports to USSR To Begin in Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Views Upcoming Projects *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Petrochemical Industry Boosts Output *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Mirzadeh Speaks on Mines, Industry Investment *[IRNA]* 65

Nepal

Prime Minister Defends Partyless System at Rally *[AFP]* 66
AFP Details Clampdown on Political Parties 66
Antigovernment Weekly Seized in Kathmandu 28 Jan *[AFP]* 67
Building of Television Production Complex Begins *[AFP]* 67

Pakistan

MQM Calls 7 Feb Strike in Karachi; 55 Killed 67
Leaders Condemn Violence *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Strike 'Unprecedented' in Scope *[AFP]* 68

Indefinite Curfew Imposed *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Bhutto Blames Opposition *[AFP]* 69
Bhutto Appeals for Peace *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Commissioner Issues Press Note *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
10-Day Mourning Period Begins *[AFP]* 70
President Expresses Concern *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Opposition, President Meet *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Curfew Widened *[AFP]* 71
Assembly Condemns India for Kashmir Shooting *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Ishaq Khan: 'No' Design Against 'Any Country' *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
'Military Deterrent Is Vital' *[AFP]* 71
Police Disperse Shiite Demonstrators in Peshawar *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

Sri Lanka

Helicopter Attacks Tamil Boats in Palk Strait *[AFP]* 72
Official Denies Attack *[Colombo International]* 72
EPRLF Says 'At Least' 95 Dead *[AFP]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Headquarters Transfer to Cairo Viewed

Assistant Secretary Interviewed

NC2401000190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Umran, Arab League assistant secretary general, has said views are not crystallized on the importance of convening an Arab summit conference.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent before leaving Cairo today, he noted the need to hold an Arab summit, especially in light of the momentous developments in the occupied territories and the mounting Israeli suppression and acts of violence against the Palestinian intifadah and in order to assist the legitimate government in Lebanon. He asserted no country has made an official proposal to hold an Arab summit in Cairo.

Answering a question on the prospects of transferring the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, he said this issue is contingent on an agreement between the two fraternal countries, Egypt and Tunisia. This, he added, requires a spirit similar to that which prevailed at Casablanca [Arab summit], in the wake of which Egypt returned to the Arab League. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid's Statement

NC0702154590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1356 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Egypt and Tunisia have reached an understanding on implementing the stipulations of the League's Charter in connection with its headquarters.

In a statement today, he expressed his belief that a solution will be reached which will be in accordance with the Arab League Charter and will satisfy both Egypt and Tunisia. He said: We are trying to apply the Arab League Charter in this respect and at the same time appreciate Tunisia's interests.

He noted that Article 10 of the Arab League Charter clearly stipulates that the League's Secretariat should be in Cairo.

'Abd-al-Majid said: When the Arab League Secretariat was transferred to Tunis, it was decided to establish a temporary headquarters for the League there. We adhere to the League's Charter which stipulates that the League's Secretariat should be in Cairo.

Commenting on the current efforts to resolve the Mauritantian-Senegalese dispute, he disclosed that the Senegalese and Mauritanian foreign ministers will meet in Cairo on Saturday. He noted that this meeting is part of Egypt's efforts to find a solution to the differences between the two countries.

Arab League Welcomes Nelson Mandela's Release

LD0302193190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Arab League's General Secretariat has heard with great satisfaction the news of the imminent release of Nelson Mandela, who has become an international symbol of self-sacrifice for the sake of freedom and equality. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi pointed out in a communique published today, that the South African Government's decision has a special importance which goes beyond South Africa itself, if it really means a complete departure from apartheid and an end to the use of force to impose white hegemony over blacks and colored people. He also stressed the need to lift emergency laws, to release all political prisoners, and to open dialogue with all parties of opposition before the international community becomes convinced that the leaders of South Africa are serious about such new development.

Islamic Affairs

Pakistani Kashmir Chief's Resolution Ratified

BK3101031390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] World Muslim League has appealed to the Islamic Conference Organization and the UN secretary general to take steps for conducting a neutral plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. The organization unanimously ratified the resolution at its annual meeting in holy Mecca. Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayum Khan, the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, presented the resolution. He urged the Muslims to fulfill their responsibilities by extending wholehearted support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people for their independence.

Islamic Congress To Seek Halt in Emigration

JN0102191990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Feb 90 p 6

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—The General Islamic Congress on Jerusalem held a session the day before yesterday during which it discussed Jewish emigration from the USSR to Palestine.

Kamil al-Sharif, head of the Congress' Executive Committee, spoke at the session about his experience during a visit to the USSR to attend the world environment and development conference. Al-Sharif described Jewish practices by saying that Jewish efforts were targeted at entrenching and serving emigration.

Prominent international Jewish figures had been elected to participate in this conference to influence world public opinion on Jewish emigration, Al-Sharif added.

Al-Sharif said that according to the Jewish concept, human rights are represented by Jewish emigration from the USSR to Palestine.

Al-Sharif opined that allowing Jewish emigration means invasion and has no connection whatsoever with human rights. He added that in the USSR there is a tendency to support this emigration. He called for official contacts to try to change this tendency.

His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], also spoke, reviewing this grave issue and noting that its toleration is tantamount to tolerating Israel and the Balfour Declaration. Al-Sa'ih added: The total of 1 million Jews who will emigrate will include experts and scientists who will support the Zionist entity, something that Israel itself had been planning. Shaykh al-Sa'ih asserted that it is not possible to overlook this grave issue.

The PNC speaker called for two urgent measures as a preliminary move: first, to ask the Arab League to call an emergency summit to discuss this issue and form a delegation that will leave for the USSR in an attempt to influence its decision; and second, to ask the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to call a meeting to send representatives on a similar mission and translate into action the fact that the Palestine question is a central Islamic and Arab issue. Al-Sa'ih added that if the USSR feels the Arab and Islamic stand is serious, it will inevitably change its decision.

Dr 'Izzat Jaradat, director of the ICO office, reviewed a report on Jewish emigration, a report that included the following proposals:

1. Prepare a memorandum that a delegation from the Congress' Executive Committee will give to the Soviet ambassador in Amman.
2. Send an urgent memorandum to Soviet President Gorbachev asking him to halt Jewish emigration.
3. Send urgent memoranda to the Jeddah-based ICO secretary general and to the Arab League secretary general calling on them to launch intensive diplomatic and political efforts to make the USSR halt Jewish emigration.
4. Appeal to Islamic committees and organizations to send memoranda to the Soviet president explaining the effects of Jewish emigration on Palestine—population and land—as well as the danger it poses for the Palestinians' cause.

There followed a wide-ranging discussion in which views and proposals were exchanged on this same topic.

The conferees called for the consideration of Jewish emigration as a political issue resulting from the detente policy between the United States and the USSR. Therefore, the two superpowers should reconsider this policy, which Zionism invested in and exploited to serve its interests and aims.

The congress denounced this emigration and the policy that led to it, appealing to the USSR to continue its previous just policies and to understand that opening the door to emigration will affect the rights and cause of the Palestinian people, as it is conducive to Zionist expansion and the establishment of more settlements.

The congress also appealed to the UN secretary general and UN Security Council to take practical and immediate measures to halt this onslaught.

The congress called for an urgent emergency Arab summit to discuss practical measures to confront this grave problem.

ICO Statement on 'Threat' of Jewish Emigration

LD0702035690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah 6 Feb 89 (SPA)—The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Permanent Secretariat expressed great concern over the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and the intention of the Israeli authorities of occupation to settle them in Palestinian territories. The Permanent Secretariat added, in a statement issued today by the ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid, that such an emigration constitutes a serious threat to the security and stability of the region and a disturbance of the demographic balance in it. It is, further, against the region's peoples and their legitimate aspirations.

The ICO Permanent Secretariat warned against the serious repercussions should the Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine continue. Such an emigration is in the service of the colonialist aims of world Zionism to control the whole region and establish what it calls "Greater Israel", the Secretariat added.

The ICO calls on all Islamic countries and international organizations, as well as as freedom- and democracy-loving peoples and bodies, to undertake an international political and Islamic campaign to point out the gravity of such an emigration and to examine its aims and take the necessary measures to face up to the current chalienges and their effects on the Islamic world, provide sources for supporting and consolidating the Palestinian people's struggle and its courageous intifadah until the Palestinian people achieve all their goals, including repatriation, liberation of the occupied Palestinian territories, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on its soil and homeland under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Abd-al-Majid Addresses Conference

NC0702184590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1636 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has appealed to the Islamic countries to consolidate their efforts within a framework of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual understanding so that our Islamic nation can achieve the lofty standing it deserves. He noted that this nation has the moral and material strength to achieve a social, cutural, and economic renaissance and to respond to the challenges and changes of the 1990's.

'Abd-al-Majid delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab group at the second session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] this afternoon. He said: More than ever before, we are now required to support the Palestinian people with all our might and to provide all possible means of this support to the Palestinian people and the PLO as they engage in a courageous confrontation with the Israeli occupation forces. Moreover, we must continue to support the Palestinian intifadah until the Palestinian people achieve their independence on their national soil.

With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, he expressed his hope that the two parties will soon be able to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 fully and comprehensively. He said: It is our sacred duty to help achieve a just and durable peace so that the Gulf peoples can enjoy security and stability and devote their resources to promoting Islam's tolerant values. We must encourage all initiatives that are in line with this goal, including Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent positive initiative.

On the Lebanese issue, he said this is one of the important issues that concerns us all. He pointed out that the leaders of three Islamic countries have pledged to find a way to ensure the comprehensive solution to this issue. He noted that Saudi Arabia hosted the al-Ta'if meetings which laid the foundation for comprehensive political reform emphasizing the role of the legitimate government and the imposition of sovereignty throughout the national territory.

He stressed that the ICO has registered many achievements over the past 20 years and shown that it can adopt resolutions in all fields which have a clear and tangible impact within and without the Islamic world.

Concluding his speech, 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the Egyptian Government's and people's pleasure at hosting the 19th ministerial conference, due to be held in Cairo soon. He noted that this conference will provide an opportunity to contribute to the enhancement of the ICO progress and to score further accomplishments.

20th Anniversary Celebrated

NC0702143090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] today celebrates the 20th anniversary of its foundation. Delegations from the Islamic member countries are taking part in the celebrations being held in Jeddah. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is leading Egypt's delegation, and is also holding consultations with the foreign ministers of several Islamic countries on Islamic and Arab issues.

The Foreign Ministry issued a communique on this occasion. It said: The founding of the ICO came as an expression of the Islamic peoples' desire to achieve a better future within the framework of Islam's tolerant teachings. Since it was founded, the ICO has made great strides in all fields. The ICO has also endeavored to create a common groundwork of cooperation among the Islamic countries in the political, economic, trade, cultural, social, scientific, and technological fields. Egypt has reiterated its belief in and adherence to Islamic solidarity and its commitment to the principles and goals the ICO is working to achieve.

The Foreign Ministry concluded its communique by saying that Egypt is honored to host the ICO ministerial conference this year.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Denies Claiming Israeli Bus Ambush

JN0702162890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] In response to reports by some news agencies that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] claimed responsibility for the Zionist bus operation on the Ismailia road, a PFLP-GC spokesman stated the following:

While saluting the heroes of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis who planned and implemented the Zionist bus operation, the PFLP-GC wishes to clarify that it has never before claimed responsiblity for operations carried out by other organizations and factions of the Palestinian resistance. The PFLP-GC did not issue any communique or statement claiming responsibility for the bus operation which was carried out by the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis. All communiques issued by the PFLP-GC concerning this subject were communiques of salutation and respect for the heroes of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al- Maqdis heroes. The difference between claiming responsibility and saluting is clear.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Islamic Jihad Denies Egyptians Captured Member

JN0702163690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1532 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] An official spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis today completely denied claims by Egyptian security organs stating that they [Egyptians] captured one of the Ismailia operation heroes. The spokesman said that the heroes of the Martyr Misbah al-Sawari group had all returned to their base safe and sound. He added: The Ismailia operation is just the tip of the iceberg.

Letter of 'Valiant Fedayeen' to Spouse

JN0702173890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1533 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Brother strugglers: The al-Quds radio correspondent in Amman has managed to get a photocopy of a letter sent by one of those who carried out the heroic operation against the Zionist bus to his wife. He had prepared himself for martyrdom, but God was his protector and guardian. When you threw a handful of dust, it was not your act but God's. [Koranic verse]

Brother strugglers: Al-Quds radio broadcasts the letter of the valiant fedayeen to his wife: In the name of God. My dear wife, after depending on Almighty God and under His care, I am writing you this letter imploring omnipotent God that it will reach you while you are assured about your husband and the father of your daughters.

My caring wife, in this letter, I tell you that sagacious God has illuminated my way and guided me to join the ranks of those who fight solely for the sake of God to purge the holy lands of the Jews who usurped them.

My beloved wife, if God preordains my martyrdom, then, my will to you is to take care of yourself as I have always known you, raise your daughters in the best way you can, and carry out your duties towards them by providing the best education for them. I also urge you not to weep or wear black if I attain martyrdom. This is the will and trust I am leaving you. Hold your head high before other people because if I attain martyrdom, this will be along the path of Islam and jihad. I am now with my brothers in the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, a member of it. My brothers in the movement will carry out the duty they can—and which God has preordained them for.

Dear wife: I am indebted to some people whom you know. So, pay my debts, and the brothers will help you.

I conclude my letter with happiness and martyrdom, if I achieve it. Our tryst will be in the heavens.

[Signed] Your loyal husband

P.S. I will inform you of the people to whom I am indebted. Finally, say hello to everyone I know. Take care of the children. May God help you to fulfill the mission after my passing away.

[Signed] Your husband, who prays to God that you will always enjoy good health

PNC Members Meet, Issue Statement on Emigration

LD0702204490 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] PNC [Palestine National Council] members held a meeting yesterday, Tuesday, in Jordan under the chairmanship of Shaykh Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC speaker, to discuss the issue of emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, and its negative consequences regarding the Palestinian cause.

At the end of their meetings, the PNC members issued a statement in which they emphasized the needs to take immediate measures to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied land, as this new wave of emigration represents a big new Jewish invasion of the homeland and the Palestinian soil.

The statement called for serious action to implement the resolution of international legitimacy. The statement stated that such action requires exertion of pressure on the United States to halt its material, political, and military support for Israel. The statement stressed that the Palestinian refugees, who have been living in camps since 1948, should have first priority to return to the Palestinian land instead of the Soviet Jews or others. The PNC decided to send this statement to the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Summit To 'Confront Israeli Arrogance' Needed

JN0302211090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1855 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Commentary by political editor]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] whose results were, among other things, King Hassan II's determination to extend an urgent invitation to the members of the Higher Arab Committee entrusted with the international efforts to resolve the Palestine question, to meet as soon as possible. It is known that the aforementioned Higher Arab Committee was formed last year in accordance with the emergency Casablanca summit. It is also known that the foreign ministers of the member states of the seven-man committee itself did not abide by the meeting or by exerting efforts with the international community in accordance with the Arab summit, except for two times throughout more than a year. In fact, the recent meeting, which was held in accordance with an urgent call by the PLO before the Malta summit between the presidents of the two superpowers, took place with the attendance of only three Arab foreign ministers of the Arab committee on the Palestine question.

However, the other Arab foreign ministers delegated their countries' representatives to the Arab League to attend the meeting. This summary of the progress of the work of the Higher Arab Committee entrusted with the Palestine question and with the means of supporting it

on the international level throughout more than a year [words indistinct] to show the shortcomings and justifications, especially since the developments on the level of the Arab-Israeli conflict have continued to escalate contrary to the suspect coolness of the official fraternal committee in support of the Palestine question on the international level.

At any rate, what requires this committee to meet as soon as possible is very serious and important at the same time. This also requires collective and effective Arab action to resolutely confront two major issues: The first issue is the stumbling peace efforts in the Middle East as a result of the Israeli enemy's intransigence and arrogance toward the international efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. The second issue is the Soviet Jews' emigration to the Palestinian territories, and its consequences on Arab rights and pan-Arab security. Regarding the first issue, the Israeli arrogance is undoubtedly aimed at obstructing the aspired peace in the Middle East. This arrogance proves that the hostile Israeli policy is still the same. In fact, this policy has become more arrogant and intransigent toward the options of true peace, and against the will of international legitimacy. This requires that the Arab brothers, on the highest level, reassess the situation and discuss options to confront this Israeli defiance against peace calls; this extreme Israeli insistence on arrogance, aggression, and muscle-flexing; and this daily Israeli advocacy of Greater Israel and the feverish preparations to achieve this objective, which is related to the second issue; namely this aggressor Jewish influx into the Palestinian Arab land, which stimulated the Israeli appetite for expansion at the expense of the Palestinian people as a way to strike at the crux of pan-Arab security.

A brave and responsible Arab stand to confront the Israeli arrogance is not a Palestinian demand, but a collective Arab duty related to the Arab destiny, especially since the contemporary world gives priority to interests over any other past considerations. This should urge the Arab nation to make a comprehensive assessment of the new international state of affairs based on its priorities for security, sovereignty, and pan-Arab rights, which are now threatened, more than at any time in the past, by the dangers of the balance of interests, which encouraged world Zionism to escalate its campaign to Judaize all of Palestine at a time when the Arab nation can hardly believe what is taking place before it. What is required is something bigger than the meeting of the Higher Arab Committee on the Palestine question, and not less than an Arab summit to discuss and confront dangers—a summit on a level that would foil the Israeli defiance of pan-Arab security, bolster the effective Arab support for the valiant intifadah, and terminate the Israeli occupation of the territories of the free and independent Palestinian state.

Egypt

Musa Says Reports on Bus Incident 'Inaccurate'

NC0702170190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1934 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has affirmed that the security authorities are continuing their intensive investigation of the attack on the Israeli tourist bus and have discovered some clues.

He expressed the hope that these clues will clarify the full dimensions of the incident and identify the culprits.

In a statement today, he said that it has been learned that the crime was committed by non-Egyptians and was plotted abroad.

The interior minister said that reports by newspapers and news agencies on the incident are nothing more than speculation and were not attributed to responsible sources or official statements. Therefore, most of these reports lack truth and accuracy.

He urged the media not to circulate inaccurate news in their eagerness to have a scoop. He warned that the circulation of such reports will have negative effect on the current invesitigations. He asserted that the Egyptian security authorities will announce their findings as soon as the investigation is completed.

Briefs Cabinet on 'Savage' Attack

NC0702220490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting this evening under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to discuss a number of issues, including the implementation of development projects planned for this year and the economic situation and the economic reform policy.

At its meeting this evening, the cabinet condemned the recent savage attack on a number of Israeli tourists on the Ismailia-Cairo road, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated. He added that the cabinet affirmed that this incident was a criminal action designed to torpedo the efforts to promote the peace process in the region. The cabinet affirmed that the incident must not hamper the peace process, but should increase the determination to proceed forward to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The information minister added that the interior minister briefed the cabinet on the details of the regrettable savage attack on a number of Israeli tourists and detailed the measures taken by his ministry. He noted that the investigation showed that the abominable operation was planned and carried out by non-Egyptian elements. Intensive efforts have been exerted since immediately after the incident to uncover the perpetrators.

The interior minister related some of the incidents which extremist elements have committed in violation of the law, such as using cold steel weapons to attack the security forces. The interior minister affirmed that violations of law, attempts to jeopardize the security of the citizens, and the undermining of stability of the internal front will not be tolerated. He affirmed that any attempt to violate the law will be dealt with firmly and with the full force of the law. The interior minister also affirmed his ministry's commitment to carry out court rulings and to release immmediately any detainee found innocent. The minister said that the emergency law is only used in a limited way to maintain Egyptian national security and defend the supreme interests and goals for which it was promulgated.

Safwat al-Sharif added that the cabinet then reviewed a report by the supply and internal trade minister about the availability of strategic reserves of basic commodities. The cabinet discussed the obstacles to the allocation of credits for the importation of such commodities and the need to set aside the necessary foreign currency for such credits.

The cabinet also approved the initial report submitted by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, on the country's economic and social performance during 1988-89, the second year of the current Five-Year Plan. The report noted that the gross domestic product rose from 43 to 45 billion pounds. The report also noted that the total investment in the public and private sectors during 1988-89 was 12.7 billion pounds. During the second year of the Five-Year Plan, 255,000 new job opportunities were created. The total salaries of employees is estimated at 19.3 billion pounds.

The cabinet also discussed a report on the continued implementation of the projects of the plan of the current fiscal year of 1989-90 in the July-September first quarter.

The information minister concluded by saying that the cabinet approved the establishment of a national center for educational and examination assessment.

Further Reaction to Attack on Israeli Tourists

Israel's Shalal Praises Officials

NC0702193190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal today praised statements and comments by Egyptian officials and the reaction of the Egyptian public condemning the attack on the bus carrying a number of Israeli tourists on the Ismailia-Cairo road last Sunday [4 February].

Shahal said these statements show the the Egyptian leaders' and people's concern about the peace process.

He stressed that Israeli tourists should continue to visit Egypt despite this incident. He said that for Israelis to

refrain from traveling to Egypt would mean that they had surrendered in the face of such hostile acts.

In a meeting today, the Israeli Inner Cabinet discussed a report on the incident prepared by the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, who attended the session. The report noted that the Egyptian Government and people have expressed their condemnation of this incident. The report also contained details of the incident and the investigation being conducted by the Egyptian authorities on the basis of information the ambassador received from the Egyptian interior minister, whom he met prior to his departure for Tel Aviv.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens briefed the cabinet on his contacts with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the matter.

Attack on 'Peaceful' Guests Decried

JN0702203390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
6 Feb 90 p 1

[Editorial by Jamal Badawi: "The Israeli Bus Crime"]

[Text] Whatever the motives behind the Israeli bus crime and regardless of the perpetrators' nationality, the hands that carried it out were sinful. They do not harbor good will toward Egypt and its people. They do not want this country to enjoy security and stability.

The crime could have been aimed at foiling the meeting between the Palestinians and Israelis in the presence of Egyptians. It could have been aimed at taking revenge against the Israelis who kill the stone-throwing children of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory. There is also the aim of padding pretexts for maintaining the emergency law in order to preserve the climate of terror and hence preserve the ostensible reason for continuing this law. The aim may also be to embarrass the new interior minister, Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, and force him to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor.

Any attempt to analyze each of these hypotheses will inevitably lead to a search for those who could benefit from this action. In all cases, however, we are bound to discover that Egypt is the loser, that the Egyptian people will pay the price of this crime—monetarily in the form of compensations, morally in the form of apologies, and securitywise in terms of new restrictions to be added to the existing emergency regulations. We will soon hear voices defending the emergency law and playing their well-known tune about the need to maintain this law to confront acts of terrorism, despite the fact that this law has never succeeded in preventing these acts or preempting a single crime. Had this law succeeded, it would have spared much blood and received everyone's applause. It is clear, however, that its heavy shackles could never allow for preventative moves, and the door for haphazard arrests has opened wide. In this case, the innocent will pay the price of the crime.

And until the investigators apprehend the culprits and reveal their identities, every Egyptian should denounce this grotesque incident, which ended the lives of peaceful, foreign guests who entered our country legally under international laws and conventions, thus making any attack on them an attack on Egypt's reputation and security.

Negative Effect on Peace Process

JN0702180590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
6 Feb 90 p 5

[Editorial: "This Is Not the Arena for Struggle"]

[Text] The perpetrators of the criminal incident targeting a group of Israeli tourists cannot be Egyptian citizens concerned with the security, safety, and stability of the homeland. Moreover, they cannot be Egyptian citizens eager to ensure a secure atmosphere that would guarantee the continued influx of tourists from all over the world to a country that is characterized by freedom, security, and stability.

Investigations will reveal the identity of the perpetrators and their suspect motives. There is a strong conviction ruling out the possibility that the perpetrators are natives of this homeland. In the event that the attackers are found to be Egyptians, the crime that they have committed would reveal that they were mere tools in the hands of Egypt's enemies—tools that do not seek to see Egypt prosper, that continue to hatch conspiracies designed to tarnish Egypt's image, and that seek to terrorize and frighten tourists after the recent improvement in the inflow of tourists, considering that Egypt has become a tourist attraction to tourists from all over the world.

The fact that this ugly incident—which repels every honorable Egyptian citizen—was carried out at a time when Egypt is playing a major role in advancing peace efforts and when signs have emerged of the imminent meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state to prepare for talks by the parties to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, casts a shadow on the motives behind this inhuman attack on a bus transporting a group of innocent civilians who came to Egypt as peaceful tourists. Had they been courageous strugglers, the perpetrators of the attack would have shown support for the heroes of the Palestinian intifadah in their valiant struggle inside the occupied territories.

Editor Questions Motives

JN0702183090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
6 Feb 90 p 1

[Article by editor in chief Ibrahim Nafi': "The Reckless Incident and the Medal"]

[Text] By any standard, the tourist bus incident on the Cairo-Ismailia road is a regrettable incident, regardless of the nationalities of the victims and the motives of the perpetrators.

First and foremost, the incident is a terrorist act which took place on the soil of secure and stable Egypt, for whose security and stability we have spared no efforts. Moreover, this is an irresponsible act, which serves neither national nor pan-Arab objectives.

Perhaps I would not be exaggerating if I said that this incident is one of those suspect, mysterious incidents which serve the goals of others rather than the goals of our Arab homeland. Such incidents are not unprecedented in the history of the long Arab-Israeli conflict, and have always served as a pretext for the hardliners who do not want to heed the appeal to justice, reason, and peace in our afflicted region.

We are struggling for the progress of Egypt. Our primary weapon in that is safeguarding stability, providing an appropriate atmosphere for investment and tourism, increasing production, defeating backwardness, paying debts, solving our economic problems, and raising the living standard of the people who have long suffered from the woes and disasters of successive wars.

We are struggling for the sake of regaining the occupied Arab land and establishing a Palestinian entity on Palestinian soil. We have waged battles in war and peacetime, and did not hesitate for one moment to back the legitimate Arab rights to land and independence with blood and sincere, relentless efforts. The Palestinian leaders have even explicitly said that Egypt is the only state that did not despair and did not give up the continuous work for the sake of Palestine and the Palestinian people. We marched along this path and offered up tens of thousands of victims in wars, while others have fallen back in the peace battles, until we managed to reach the beginning of the road where a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was held for the first time.

We have made great efforts to prepare for an unprecedented tripartite meeting in a European city among Egypt, the United States, and Israel in order to lay the final preparations for the expected Palestinian-Israeli meeting to hold a direct dialogue and negotiations between the two sides.

Then, unexpectedly, came this reckless incident. So what objective can it serve? What do the planners and perpetrators of this incident want? Do they want to undermine Egypt's stability? What is their interest in that? Do they want to fatally strike at the peace efforts? What is their interest in that?

Do they wish to provide Yitzhaq Shamir, who is dying to reject contacts with any element in the PLO and is postponing the start of negotiations, with a gift from heaven to prove the truth of his corrupt theories on the uselessness of dialogue with the Palestinians, perpetrate his rejectionist attitude and his grasp on the occupied territories?

Do they wish to erase the enormous positive effects realized by the Palestinian people's intifadah on world public opinion?

How much time will we need to remove the negative effects of this incident, which will be exploited by our enemies in the region and the world in the best possible way for the continuation of Israeli existence in the occupied territories?

The situation has required more than 40 years for the sectors with influence on world public opinion and inside Israel itself to be convinced that the Palestinian is a human being demanding his rights, and that the word Palestinian is not linguistically synonymous with terrorism and the killing of peaceful civilians.

How many years will we need to protect this achievement from the effects of this reckless act?

The killing of civilians and women [as published] of various nationalities does not retrieve a usurped land, nor does it regain lost rights. The Palestinian revolution learned this valuable lesson through long experiences in incidents of plane hijackings and torturing the world conscience so that it would take notice of the Palestinians' rights. The Palestinian revolution deserted this policy officially in its documents and opted for the road of peace, supported by the Arab world and world public opinion.

Who has stabbed the Palestinian revolution with this bloody dagger? And in whose interest?

We and the rest of the world have condemned the base Israeli oppressive measures used on Palestinian children, the elderly, women, and youths. The world conscience has been shaken by Israeli crimes against these people.

Who, then, wants to give the world a justification from the Israeli point of view for these crimes? To enable it to enact further oppression measures, Israel will base its false justification on this incident.

It is strange that this incident took place on Egyptian territory; and on the same day when President Mubarak sent messages to U.S. President Bush, Soviet President Gorbachev, and the Israeli foreign minister, warning against the dangerous negative effects of settling immigrant Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories and the extent of its effect on prospects for peace within a continuous and permament effort to activate peace and pave the way to a solution of the Palestine question without forfeiting or conceding any rights.

In what way could this desperate act serve this noble national effort?

Throughout past years, Mubarak kept warning Israel of the dangers of refusing to listen to the call for justice. He declared to the whole world that the only other alternative to just peace would be an explosion of violence in the region, and that Israel's violence against the intifadah youths would only create counterviolence against it.

So why is Israel then waiting to respond to the calls of peace and conscience? Is it waiting for the whole region

to flare up before its submits to the international will in giving back the legitimate Arab rights to their owners?

Or has it been waiting for incidents of this type to justify its position, which violates all international norms?

If this last possibility is the most likely, then perhaps it is now completely satisfied and happy with what those who committed the act have done. And perhaps those who committed the act now realize which side they are serving, which goals they are realizing, and which master they serve; nay, from which side they will be receiving their medals for this act. Unfortunately there will be no Egyptian, Arab, or humanitarian medal. There will be a non-Arab medal befitting the great achievement they have realized in the interest of Egypt's enemies and against the interest of the Egyptian and Arab people alike.

Soviet Jews' Emigration to 'Palestine' Assailed

JN0602055590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
4 Feb 90 p 14

["Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] The blows against the Arab nation should not make us despair. No, in fact I hope they will awaken and alert us to the dangers threatening us. Protests and slogans are useless in warding off these dangers. It has become clear that these slogans are political chloroform or an international anaesthetic whose only purpose is to drug us so we can't feel what is happening around us.

The immigration of half a million Soviet Israelis to Israel is not the final catastrophe. It is the beginning of all catastrophes. After this half a million there will be another 3 million Jews in the Soviet Union who will want to emigrate to Israel. All these are educated—experts, scientists, and officers. A new aggressive state is being set up on our borders and a new dagger thrust into our chests. However, we should not blame the Soviet Union alone for this decision, which is an attack on the Arabs. We should blame ourselves first. Had it not been for the defeatist attitude that has gripped some of our countries, the divisions amongst us, the civil war between north and south Sudan, the sectarian war in Lebanon, the devastating war between Iran and Iraq, and the war between Morocco and the Polisario, the Soviet Union would not have taken us lightly and permitted this assault—which is no less dangerous than the establishment of Israel. This decision is a dangerous twist in Soviet policy in the Middle East—as though Moscow is punishing us for not having embraced communism, although the communist countries themselves have cursed communism, destroyed its gods, hanged its flags at half mast, and expelled its leaders. This is the second blow dealt to Muslims and Arabs after the invasion of Afghanistan—whose people never committed a crime other than believing in God and rejecting the principles of atheism; the people whose men, women, and children defended their religion, homeland, and dignity, and forced the Soviet Army to withdraw defeated and conquered, just as the U.S. Army withdrew from Afghanistan. [as published]

This decision is a new invasion of Palestine. It is an attempt to annihilate the entire Palestinian people. It is a new occupation of Arab territory. We must take a united stand against this unprecedented aggression. Moscow knows that the Arab and Islamic people will soon act in accordance with the pain they have felt from this assault.

We believe that the Islamic republics in the Soviet Union will soon realize that this stab in the back has injured every Muslim and that this decision will encourage these republics' demand for independence—something which has already started.

Daily Attacks Shamir's Statement on Immigration

JN0602153090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
17 Jan 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Threats That Should Not Be Ignored"]

[Text] The serious statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that Israel needs more land to absorb hundreds of thousands of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union should be a strong incentive for the Arabs to take vigorous and decisive action further to support the right of the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to establish their own state. It should also serve as an incentive to demand the implementation of the 1947 UN partition resolution—the resolution from which the State of Israel derives the legitimacy of its existence.

There is no doubt that the Israeli prime minister made these statements to justify his strange position and his refusal to return the land to its legitimate owners. Moreover, his statements can be viewed as a threat by Israel to invade parts of their territories to secure a haven for Jews arriving from the Soviet Union or other countries. The same excuse was used by Adolf Hitler half a century ago to occupy territory belonging to Germany's neighbors.

Arab silence over the kind of statements being made shamelessly by Shamir will be an unforgivable mistake. Arab leaders must hold an urgent summit conference to study this issue, adopt decisive resolutions to confront it in the international arena, use every possible Arab pressure to put an end to Shamir's statements, and redouble official and popular support for the Palestinian intifadah. This support is needed to strengthen the intifadah further so it can remain steadfast against the repressive actions designed to usurp their land and settle Jews there.

Republic's Position on Terrorism Emphasized

JN0802100090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "No to Terrorism"]

[Text] Immediately following the attack on the Israeli tourist bus, the security authorities began extensive efforts to apprehend the culprits of this regrettable act, and, in record time, seized the car that was used in the attack. Both officials and observers agreed that the attack was aimed at undermining peace efforts, coming as it does a few days before the upcoming meeting of the Egyptian foreign minister, the Israeli foreign minister, and the U.S. secretary of state to reach agreement on the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

From the beginning, Egypt uncovered the dimensions of this criminal act and put it into its proper perspective through the presidency's reiteration of its regret and its viewing this incident as being primarily directed against the current efforts to push the Middle East peace process ahead and against the efforts to secure stability and security for all the peoples in this region. In his telephone contact with Yitzhaq Shamir, President Mubarak also stressed that such an incident should not impede the peace process but should be an incentive to attain a final solution to the conflict so that acts of violence may be averted in the region.

Cairo, which has been one of the first capitals to vehemently renounce terrorism, once again reaffirms this principle, a principle which it has adopted as one of the basic elementary truths of its political action. Cairo also emphasizes that any terrorist attempts will not force it to give up this principle. It also explicitly reiterates its condemnation of individual or group terrorism and that the perpetrators of this odious incident are criminals who should be punished. Cairo would also like to remind that it was among the first countries to call for the convocation of an international conference for discussing and tackling this regrettable manifestation. It also emphasizes its firm stands on hijackings, terrorizing civilians, and its confrontation of these suspect operations. We would like to affirm, however, that violence breeds violence and repression entrenches despair. From this premise, all parties must pool their efforts to attain just and comprehensive peace and terminate the bitter conflict in this vital area of the world, the genuine translation of an honest international stand that rejects terrorism.

Commentary Stresses Need To Confront Terrorism

NC2801160390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Terrorism Is a Fire That Burns Democracy and Destroys the Economy"]

[Text] In the wake of the interior minister's dismissal and replacement, there has been a great deal of talk and analysis. The issue has become so confused that the original point was lost.

There is an important issue to be explained here and that is the police's role in quelling terrorism and extremism. Confronting this danger is first of all a security matter. To disregard this in any way is tantamount to giving a certain degree of legitimacy to excesses which have no remedy except firmness.

Terrorist extremism threatens society's structure and stability. It is a bloody call for darkness and backwardness that has nothing to do with religion and has no relevance to the Egyptian people's history, culture, values, and traditions, which have been their shield against dangers and difficulties over the ages. Therefore, we must be quite clear that striking at terrorism and extremism is one thing and any excesses used in confronting this danger is something else. The fact that someone may have abused his authority in confronting a danger does not mean that we should relinquish legitimate means of containing the danger of terrorism and extremism. Protecting a peaceful people from terrorism is the same as protecting their right to life in a society that believes in the sanctity of life.

We must remember that what is important is building on the established and strong bases of a genuine economic development which will be able to extricate us from the maelstrom from which we are suffering. This severe crisis can be seen in the following:

1. An insane demographic explosion which consumes everything and shows complete disregard for the future;
2. Agricultural production which will be unable to achieve self-sufficiency for a long time to come, thereby forcing us to import food and other necessities to keep everyday life going;
3. The debts all this entails. We suffer from having to pay interest on these debts, take measures to remedy their reprecussions, reschedule these debts, and deal with creditors; and
4. The important changes in the world's political map. These changes mean that future international relations will be governed by economic relations. This requires all countries to search for an independent economic identity before they are trampled by the giants in the economic arena.

Hence, a judicious confrontation against the unbridled forces of terrorism is the pillar of economic construction. Leniency in dealing with these ignorant forces is tantamount to apathy to the right of every citizen to a livelihood, a house, a place in a school, or a seat on a bus.

We cannot build our economy while others are working to disturb safety, frighten the public, and impose the policy of the shrill voice, disregarding the effect this has on reason and balance. It is not a question of pressure through slogans, because right and wrong are obvious. We must not allow the truth to be distorted. All means of

expression have been granted to enable people to express their opinions, no matter how extreme they may be. The democratic experience has enabled every citizen to exercise his full right to explain his viewpoint. This is true democracy in expressing opinions, so that dialogue can be enriched and creativity encouraged.

The political parties must therefore confront all advocates of terrorism and extremism because extremism stalls the democratic practices these parties are using. We do not believe that these parties would agree to live at the mercy of terrorism in any form.

President Mubarak was correct, sincere, and clear when he faced this fact and said: The roaring shrill voices we hear when talking about democracy become silent or fade away when terrorist extremism is discussed. Strangely, these voices are aware, or should be aware, that they will be the first victims of terrorism should terrorism find the opportunity to strike.

Contradictions Seen in Israeli Position on Peace

NC2601064190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Talking Newspaper" program"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres stated at the outset of his visit to Cairo that he feels confident that progress will be made in the peace process. He added that it would be a fatal error to abandon the opportunity for negotiations.

Peres continued that he believes an agreement to negotiate with the Palestinians is very imminent and that talks might begin soon, particularly since there is broad support inside the Israeli Government to include deported Palestinians in the Palestinian delegation.

As soon as these statements were made public there was an uproar in Israel. News agencies reported that Shim'on Peres' statements had caused a great deal of surprise in Israeli circles. Immediately afterwards, a spokesman for the office of Yitzhaq Shamir, Israeli prime minister and leader of the Likud bloc, stated that there was no change in the government's policy. He added that negotiating with the deported Palestinians totally contradicts the Israeli peace initiative. Indeed, the Israeli prime minister's office offered an elaborate explanation of his position on the peace process in general. The spokesman announced that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who had recently held talks with U.S. officials in Washington, has no authority to make any proposals regarding the peace process. He added that the prime minister does not believe the reports that Yitzhaq Rabin, during his visit to Washington, proposed the inclusion of 1 or 2 deported Palestinians in the proposed Palestinian delegation for a dialogue with the Israelis.

At the same time, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stated that he does not share Shim'on Peres' confidence with regard to progress in the peace process. He added that he finds nothing encouraging and noted that much ground still has to be covered.

Judging by the contradictory Israeli statements, we reach the important conclusion that the leaders of the Israeli Labor Party, represented by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, adopt a flexible attitude to the peace process, contrary to Shamir. Peres has declared that if the peace process collapses, the Israeli National Unity Government will collapse with it because the Labor Party will withdraw from the government if the peace process is stalled.

The collapse of the Israeli National Unity Government is definitely a matter which the parties trying to advance the peace process are not contemplating. Israeli leaders must agree on a stand that they can adopt in priciple for the sake of peace, and not for the sake of holding elections. Elections are not liable to give any Israeli party a sufficient majority that would enable it to make the necessary decision.

Libya

People's Congresses Cable Support for Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0702104290 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Masses of the basic people's congresses affirmed in a number of the Great Jamahiriyah's municipalities today their eternal commitment to the people's authority—the wonderful system which is unique in the world—to protect and preach it until it spreads all over the globe. They have also affirmed, in their cables to the brother leader of the revolution at the conclusion of their ordinary meetings for 1989-90, their commitment to the wise leadership of brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, affirming his guiding role in domestic and foreign policies, proceeding from the revolutionary legitimacy which was acquired from the revolution. The masses of the basic people's congresses pledged, in their cables to the brother leader of the revolution, to continue consecrating the people's authority and preaching the eternal humanitarian theses of the Third Universal Theory, in the Arab and international arenas, as well as to defend the colossal civilized achievements brought to the Libyan Arab people by the great Al-Fatih revolution.

The masses of the basic people's congresses asserted their commitment to the principles of the Third Universal Theory as their path and means to further progress and achieve Arab unity from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. They reiterated their commitment to the brother leader's assertions at the emergency meeting of the General People's Congress held on the 19th anniversary of the expulsion of the Italians, particularly his assertion on the need for the people to carry out a revolution against them.

Soviet Industry Chamber Official Arrives 6 Feb

LD0702151490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Feb (JANA)—George Vladimir, member of the local administration and representative of the Chamber of Industry in the Soviet Republic of Georgia and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Lebanese President Appeals to King for Help

LD0702220490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received a cable from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Here is the text:

His Majesty King Hassan II, king of Morocco,

Because of the continuing tragedies in Lebanon, the latest of which are the massacres which have continued for the past six days, especially in the eastern and northern areas of Beirut; because of all the efforts, the most prominent of which is the initiative of the Holy See represented by the papal ambassador, have failed to put an end to the tragedies; because of the cries and screams for help which reach me every minute from the terrified women, old people, and children detained in the shelters, houses, and school's without water, electricity, or food; and because of the cries for help from the hospitals which now have no medicines or treatments as a result of the destruction and paralysis imposed on them, I find myself at the head of a legitimate government unable to respond to the cries for help from my people, who are under the control of the criminal and terrorist actions committed by those who rebelled against legitimacy. Because of all these things, I appeal to Your Majesty to give every possible help to save us. I appeal for your support in any measure or step I may find myself forced to adopt, as the head of a legitimate government which you and the whole world recognized, in order to put an end to the tragedy of the Lebanese people and to save Lebanon.

With my best feelings and wishes.

Sudan

President Bush Receives New Sudanese Envoy

EA0702124690 Khartoum SUNA in French 1515 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 06 Feb (SUNA)—The U.S. President George Bush has hailed the measures taken by the Sudanese Government aimed at achieving peace in the country, signalling all possible help to attain that objective.

President Bush, who was addressing the White House in honor of Professor 'Abdallah 'Ahmad 'Abdallah, the new Sudanese ambassador to the United States, who handed over his credentials during the same ceremony, stressed that Sudan and the United States were still linked by historical strong relations, and charged the new Sudanese diplomat to convey his greetings to General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman.

Meanwhile, President Bush has difficulties in achieving stability and prosperity in the country because of the civil war in southern Sudan. [sentence as heard] He went on to say that the international relief aid efforts supervised by the United States had played a very important role in alleviating the suffering of citizens in southern Sudan during last year, and called for the continuation of cooperation for the success of the relief aid efforts during this year.

The new ambassador in Washington also addressed the party and asked for U.S. assistance to Sudan.

RCC Chairman Al-Bashir Speaks at Rallies

Al-Faw Rally 29 Feb

EA3001133390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Speech by 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, at a mass rally in al-Faw 29 Feb—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Allow me again to extend to you greetings from your leaders [words indistinct] in this generous homeland, and your sons and brothers in National Salvation Revolution Command Council. With the power of the National Salvation Revolution, which (?revived) this homeland [words indistinct] your pioneering experience in wheat farming, in order to safeguard the homeland and to achieve self-reliance in food, and to preserve the dignity and honor of the (?sacred homeland) and to renew the revolution's slogan, which says that we should eat from what we plant, because we do not want to beg for our food, and we do not want the relief agencies to humiliate our dignity. Through you the homeland [word indistinct], and through your production we will rid ourselves of this (?bitter) humiliation. [passage omitted]

My compatriots and dear citizens, the revolution is proceeding forward with all determination and firmness (?to uproot) all sorts of corruption, such as black markets and corruption in state offices. I here direct the officials and my brothers in [word indistinct] leadership, to (?form) a special court in al-Faw to put corruption on trial [as heard] and to safeguard fair distribution of the available capacity of commodity supplies.

Dear brothers, the revolution is determined to make essential services available to the Sudanese everywhere. Regarding education, I recommend the construction of a

girls' higher secondary school. [applause] I expect the brothers in the popular committees and the farmers' union will adopt this plan and give it the necessary support, God willing. [passage omitted]

In addition, the nation is looking to you, expecting you to be like your brothers supporting your Armed Forces for the safeguarding of the country. Everybody, all the salvation committees, all social organizations, or charity organizations have an obligatory role to [word indistinct]. Support of the armed forces currently stationed along the borders is a duty for all the citizens, so that the army can [word indistinct] against any traitor, any agent, any (?intruder) and the 5th column. This is incumbent upon all the citizens.

You have great honor [words indistinct] the Armed Forces against the rebels and outlaws. [Words indistinct] that you are capable of the challenge and more than that. [passage omitted]

Al-Hasahisa Rally 4 Feb

EA0502140990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Speech by General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, at a mass rally at al-Hasahisa on 4 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Brothers, the National Salvation Revolution, which was brought about by God's will and by the determination of this nation, and which has been directed with determination and perseverence towards realizing the people's aspirations in security and stability and the sovereignty of the state and the freedom of its political decision, is fully aware that such issues will never be realized except through production and self-reliance, and by implementing the slogan "We have decided to eat what we grow and wear what we make." [applause]

Al-Hasahisa, as you know, brother citizens, is the best place for launching this slogan and to emphasize it, because it (al-Hasahisa) is among the blessed towns, and is a town among the towns of the fragrant al-Jazirah, the ever bountiful al-Jazirah, the evergreen, of the milky udder, and of the strong arm.

Brother citizens: The deteriorated economic situation, the negligence of the production sector were among the fundamental reasons which led to the outbreak of the revolution tion and the presentation of the salvation program. [passage omitted]

The issue of economic reform, dear citizens, tackling inefficiency, pushing the wheel of production forward, implementing equilibrium in development, (?enforcement) of justice in the distribution of the wealth among the regions and among the citizens, these are among the main goals of the revolution.

We have started the economic reform program with confident steps, you have followed with us the economic dialogue conference and the economic salvation conference and their antecedents. What is to follow is the serious effort to reorganize transactions and market control. And we have put forward a program to adjusting administration and promote public service, whose results will be soon felt, God willing.

We have turned toward production with sincere determination. Production will begin with you, and through your efforts abundance will come about. The balanced development which the revolution seeks puts emphasis on developing the less developed areas and on an assessment of the effects of commodity subsidies on the national budget, on the state's resources and on the division of these effects between services and developmet. It puts emphasis on revising the performance of the parastatals, as well as on reassessing the contribution of financial bodies in developing and directing (?concern) toward production sectors which are beneficial and have effect on the national economy.

Dear brothers, the success of the textile industry's experiment in al-Hasahisa, gives us an impetus to focus on this area in the spinning and textile industry, in order to attain self-sufficiency, thus realizing the slogan "We must wear what we make."

What you are producing now is valuable and excellent, and it competes with foreign products, on which the state spends millions in hard currency to import. This is currency we could use to buy new textile machinery because in al-Hasahisa there are cotton gins to prepare the raw material for these industries. [applause]

The revolution will work to promote the performance of these gins, and it will make every effort to develop and modernize them.

It is also possible that this area will witness great expansion in edible oil production and its derivatives, because of the excellent location it enjoys and the roads that link it with other cities. [passage omitted]

The revolution, God willing, will do everything possible to search for expertise and foreign technology as it has done in the past, with the Government of China. It does not escape my attention, on this ocassion, brothers, to recall the Chinese, for the support they provided us [applause] and for the experience they shared with us in the textile industry here in al-Hasahisa, and for their help to us at the Abu 'Usr Hospital for Natural Healing [applause]

I give assurance that we are heading toward a phase which will witness more cooperation between us and our friends in the People's Republic of China. [applause] [passage omitted]

Al-Managil Rally 6 Feb

EA0702131290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, will

this evening pay a visit to Abu-Haraz in line with a tour of the Central Region. He will meet the people in that area. Abu Haraz has prepared a big mass rally to mark the occasion.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar has spoken about the rallying of the masses of the west al-Jazirah area to the leaders of the revolution, and has said it is evidence of the local masses' adherence to the orientations of the National Salvation Revolution. During a rally held in al-Manaqil this morning, his excellency appealed to the people's committees to assume their roles in fields of interest to the citizens. He directed them to wage war against (?the corrupt) and the black market. His excellency called on the inhabitants of west al-Jazirah to work for increased production, stressing that the revolution would grant incentives to all the sincere sons of the homeland who work to achieve the goals. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Announces Cotton Price Increase

EA0702115290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, announced in the speech he delivered yesterday at Freedom Square in Wad Madani that the government had raised the value of the dollar with regard to cotton exports, from 4.5 pounds to 8 pounds and 30 piasters. This was done to encourage the producer, taking account of the fact that increased production was the only way to ensure Sudanese sovereignty.

Government Reports 'Victory' Against Rebels

EA0502123490 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Allison Manani Magaya, the military governor of Equatoria Region, announced to SUNA that the Armed Forces managed last Friday [2 February] to achieve big victory by hitting a battery of the outlaws' artilery during an attempt to shell Juba town from the eastern area. The operation left two of the outlaws' officers dead and destroyed a mobile artillery. Maj. Gen. Magaya praised the efficiency of the Armed Forces in (?achieving) to destroy the military target of the outlaws.

SPLA Radio Asks Juba Residents To Leave

EA0502172290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Radio commentary]

[Text] Listeners, greetings to you all. Today I would like to repeat our appeal to the people of Juba. As we always say that all the civilians living in Juba must evacuate the town immediately, you must be united too. Division amongst yourselves is against you, since the regime refuses to give you a passage in order to leave the town. As the battle for Juba is nearing, we would like you, the citizens in Juba, to unite and arrange for your ways out of the town. You must leave the town just like the people in Yei, Anzara, and Yambio did. We were very happy about the wise decision of these citizens, because they believed that it was better for them to die for a cause, and they knew that the regime in Khartoum, Al-Bashir's regime, was not theirs.

Al-Bashir's regime is definitely a rotten one. The world knows that the Sudanese people are against this regime, because this regime is trying to impose some strange ideas on the Sudanese people, and therefore all the states in the world are unhappy with the actions of this regime. In solidarity with the Sudanese people and the entire world, I call on the patriotic elements in the Army, in prisons, the game wardens, and all the peace-loving Sudanese, to turn against these people in Juba who in fact are the enemies of the Sudanese people.

Relations With Uganda Said Deteriorating

AB0602111890 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 5 Feb 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Relations between Uganda and Sudan appear to be going from bad to worse. The Khartoum government has accused Uganda of supporting the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. Kampala countered by accusing Sudan of supporting Ugandan rebels. And now thre has been a serious border incident. From Kampala, Epaja Ojulu telexed this report.

[Begin Ojulu recording] Once again, Uganda is accusing Sudan of violating Ugandan airspace and attacking Sudanese towns. A statement from the NRA [National Resistance Army] High Command this morning said that Sudanese war planes had bombed the northern Ugandan town of Moyo. Five people were killed in the attack. The statement broadcast over Radio Uganda accused the Sudanese authorities of provocation. It said that it was most serious coming as it did at a time when fighting between the rebel SPLA and the Sudanese troops was intensifying. The Sudanese are suspicious that the rising firepower of the rebel SPLA is because of Ugandan support of the rebels.

Meanwhile, official sources said today that there had been a rebel attack in the east of the country. The sources said that 11 people, six of them soldiers, were killed when rebels of the Ugandan People's Army, the UPA, attacked an NRA unit at Kachung Bala in Kumi District, 16 km east of Mbale. Eye witnesses, hoever, put the number of dead much higher. They said that at least 20 were killed. According to the eye witnesses rebels, numbering several hundreds mounted a surprise attack on the Army unit at Kachung Bala at about 6 o'clock in the morning. It was market day and hundreds of people ran away in panic. Heavy fighting then ensued and the rebels

burned down the Army unit's thatched grass huts. They also captured an unknown quantity of arms. [end recording]

Radio Reports Kidnapping of French Doctors

EA0702174390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] A report by the French news agency from Nairobi has said that the rebel movement abducted two members of the Doctors Without Frontiers organization last weekend in the Malakal area [in Upper Nile Region] during a sudden attack. The rebel movement launched its attack on four members of the humanitarian organization. Two of them were evacuated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, while the rebel movement managed to abduct the two. They are (Christine Paarl), a Belgian doctor, and (Martin Robert), a Dutch doctor, who have been working for months on a food and medical program in the area.

The rebel movement recently shot down a small plane of the Doctors Without Frontiers organization, which was operating in the field of relief in the southern part of the country. It killed three of the workers in the organization who were on the plane.

National Dialogue Delegation on Netherlands Visit

EA0502073790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and head of the national dialogue conference's delegation, and his team of officials have begun a 5-day visit to the Netherlands. During the visit he will inform Netherlands officials about the National Salvation revolution's efforts to bring about peace in the country, in addition to clarifying the views and resolutions of the national dialogue conference on peace. His excellency will meet the Netherlands minister for development cooperation, as well as the foreign affairs and mutual cooperation councils of the Netherlands parliament. He will also meet the Sudanese community. He will attend the conference [words indistinct] tomorrow, God willing.

New Libyan Ambassador Presents Credentials

Received by Al-Bashir

EA0402212190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Yesterday Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, received the credentials of Mr. Ramadan 'Ali Bashir, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Khartoum, in his office at the Republican Palace. During the ceremony for the presentation of credentials, Lt. Gen. 'Umar confirmed that the developing relations between Sudan and Libya were an example of the need for Arab solidarity between the two peoples. It is desirable that these relations of cooperation be extended in the Arab homeland, to arrive at a comprehensive unity, with the changes being witnessed by [words indistinct]. He added that these changes called for the unity of the Third World states, especially the Arab states. He praised the existing relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Mr Ramadan 'Ali Bashir assured the radio reporter of the stand of the Jamahiriyah at the side of the Sudan, in the face of the current challenges. He said: The RCC is acting within the framework of the clear directives for solving the Sudan's problems. It is also acting within the framework of the (?unified steps) for Arab unity.

Meets With Council Member

EA0702130690 Khartoum SUNA in French 1512 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum 6 Feb (SUNA)—On Tuesday, 6 February Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member and political supervisor of the Darfur Province, received at the presidential palace in Khartoum, Ramadan 'Ali Bashir, the Arab-Libyan brotherhood secretary in Khartoum. In this respect, the Libyan diplomat declared that the meeting fell with the framework of the regular consultations between the two brotherly countries.

Official Meets With Libyan on Refugee Aid

EA0502190690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Revolution Command Council member and Chairman of the Political Committee Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad al-Hasan met here yesterday with the secretary of the Libyan Social Security Fund, Ibrahim Quwaydar and the manager of the foreign (?instrument) of the fund, and Bakri Kaabor. The meeting discussed issues related to the displaced people and the contribution of the Arab organisations to the solution of the said issues. The meeting also tackled the issue of the international conference of Afro-Arab family, scheduled to be held in Banghazi next March.

Quwaydar said the ministries of social affairs in Sudan, Egypt and Libya would work for the establishment of a developmental fund from the surplus of social security of the employees which would be utilised in short and long term development projects in the three countries, with concentration on Sudan. He pointed out that assistance could be extended to the displaced people through the said projects.

Al-Bashir Appoints Six New Ambassadors

EA0502072790 Khartoun SUNA in English 1015 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir,

yesterday issued a decree appointing six new ambassadors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the recommendation of the foreign minister.

The six are: Laurence Kodi Tombi, Dr. Hasan Abdin, 'Umar Muhammad Yasin, 'Abdallah al-Hardallo, Abbas Ibrahim al-Nur and Dr. Musa Muhammad 'Umar.

Officials Review Operation Lifeline Progress

EA0702124590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] This morning Brigadier Pio Yukwan, Revolution Command Council member and general supervisor of the Southern Council, reviewed at his office with Mr Priestly, the U.N. representative in Sudan, the progress of the work of the Operation Lifeline for relief in the southern regions, and particularly in Juba. They dealt with the food situation with regard to the displaced persons in the northern area of the Upper Nile Region, particularly in Wad Kona, where there are 3,000 displaced persons. Brig. Pio Yukwan confirmed that there were projects specially set aside for the settlement of the displaced, such as fisheries, and there were also agricultural programs now under study by the Ministry of Agriculture for self-sufficiency in food. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation were now getting ready to take over that area.

Nationwide Sorghum Distribution Under Way

EA0702124190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The Ministry of Commerce, cooperation and supply has begun the distribution of about 3,000 tonnes of sorghum in the capital and the regions. This is the quantity which had recently reached the country. The Under Secretary of the Ministry for Internal Trade and Supply, Mr. Kimb Yusuf, has appealed to the organizations concerned in the capital and the regions to take swift action to receive the supplies.

Meanwhile, the under secretary said that soya oil, part of an Italian grant, had arrived in Port Sudan. He said the quantities received, in addition to the quantities transferred, of cotton seed oil, peanut oil, and sesame oil had improved the situation with regard to the edible oil supply.

Foreign Media Support for Rebels Condemned

EA0402225790 Khartoum SUNA in French 1529 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA)—The Sudanese Journalists' Preparatory Committee has condemned the support given to the rebel movement by some foreign mass media. In a communique issued yesterday, the Journalists' Preparatory Committee also said that some mass media had deliberately disseminated wrong information, and emphasized that the information campaign would not affect the unity of the Sudanese people.

Furthermore, the communique condemned the rebel movement, which had chosen war, calling upon it to follow the path of dialogue in order to end the war.

The Journalists' Preparatory Committee confirmed its absolute support for the people's Armed Forces.

Kuwait

Media Reaction to Attack on Israeli Bus

U.S. 'Biased Behavior' Blamed

JN0702213090 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Words to Washington"]

[Text] Commenting on the attack on the tourist bus in Egypt, the U.S. State Department has described "the terrible accident as a clear attempt by the enemies of peace to halt the efforts which aim at reconciliation and dialogue." The spokesman added: "We do not know who is responsible for this crime; however, we hope the people responsible for such crimes will not be allowed to succeed." For our part, we ask the United States if it really knows who the enemies of peace are. Who is fighting the efforts to reach peace by putting obstacles and bottlenecks in front of its train, which four decades ago was paralyzed?

We reiterate the question: With whom does the United States want to establish peace? Is it with Israel, whose prime minister frankly has declared he supports the establishment of greater Israel and the expulsion of all the Palestinian residents from the sons of occupied West Bank and Gaza? Or does it want it with Palestinians, who are suffering every day, in fact every hour and every moment, from all kinds of torture, oppression, pursuit campaigns, and deportations?

The United States' lenient, biased behavior and its support for the Zionist authorities' brutal practices against the Palestinians have created an atmosphere that led a group of people who feel oppression and injustice deep down, and who realize they are prevented from practicing their legitimate rights like the American or the Jew can inside and outside Israel, to carry out these military actions.

We know Israel will use the bus operation as a pretext for blatant acts, as is the habit with the ruling clique in Tel Aviv. The official U.S. reaction was compatible with and conducive to aggressive actions Israel will carry out against the residents of the camps, cities, and villages of southern Lebanon. If the United States is serious about the peace process, and is working as it claims for the sake of human rights and the eradication of violence and terrorism from the region, then it should abandon protection of those who commit brutal, aggressive acts against unarmed Palestinian children who carried stones in defense of their identities and the land whose love they have inherited from their fathers and forefathers.

If the United States moreover is searching for a classification for such military operations, then it should not make miscalculations or a wrong choice. It should place Israel and its prime minister on top of the list of terrorists who have pledged to assassinate peace through their terrorist, brutal actions against the Palestinians—the elderly, women, and children.

Palestinians 'To Triumph or Die'

JN0702204690 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Pressure Causes Explosion"]

[Text] Shamir could not find anything to say about the armed attack on a bus carrying Israeli tourists near the Egyptian town of al-'Ashir min Ramadan, apart from setting a new condition to the list of conditions he is proposing in return for agreeing to enter into peace negotiations on the region.

Shamir has demanded what he termed "terrorism" be brought to heel before proceeding with such negotiations, in addition to previous complications he placed in the way of a peaceful solution.

While we fully are convinced the present peace process is no more than talk without any tangible results—and if it yields anything, it is to benefit only the Zionist enemy—Shamir's cold stance on his citizens' blood nonetheless is additional proof Shamir himself is marketing to those expecting peace from him. As far as he is concerned, it is just another opportunity to escape from the peace pressures.

We shall not argue with Shamir over his demands of bringing terrorism to heel; no, we join him in this demand. But we ask one question: Who is the terrorist?

This takes us back to the historic question: Is the terrorist the one who usurps a land and occupies a people? Or is the terrorist the one who struggles against the occupiers of his land with any weapon in any land? The answer is clear, despite the attempts of the world to shield itself from it.

The arrival of a bus with Israeli tourists from the Egyptian city of Rafah—which itself witnesses the harshness of occupation—to the land of al-'Ashir min Ramadan—especially considering the situation the Palestinian people are going through—is in itself terrorism. It injures the feelings which are heavy with bitterness over to what the Palestinian people are being subjected, such as bloody oppression on their occupied land when the whole world seems to have connived to eliminate the last hope these people have to retrieve their land and freedom.

The begrudging violence with which the Zionist occupiers are confronting the Palestinian people's intifadah, the blind hatred represented by breaking the bones of children and the cold-blooded premeditated murder of these children, have slapped and activated every Arab conscience. How dare Zionists believe they are capable of safely touring an Arab country! Does this not make light of Arab dignity and pride?

Our whole Arab nation feels as if it is being driven into a tight corner until it loses complete hope of regaining the usurped land. The Soviet Union is donating Jews to settle them in our occupied land. The United States volunteers its millions to help them settle there. In such a state and under these murderous circumstances, are we surprised the bus attack took place, and does anyone dare describe it as terrorism?

We do not believe so. Pressure only causes explosion. The pressures placed on our nation are beyond any human capacity.

If the Israelis are asked to face reality and facts and ask themselves the bitter question, "why is this happening to us?", they will realize their real enemy is Shamir and his ilk. They also will realize they are their own worst enemy.

If Shamir wishes to bring terrorism to heel, then he should bring his own concepts to heel and respond to the movement of history. The Palestinians, along with their Arab nation, have decided either to triumph or die. But if the Zionists decide to remain stubborn and continue to believe their oppression and terrorism will protect them from the Arab wrath, then there lies the blood of their dead and wounded on the soil of al-'Ashir min Ramadan to prove them wrong. There are the Palestinian people's stones hammering all their illusions and black dreams.

Reports, Statements Noted

JN0702194290 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 2, 11

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem, Feb 5, (Agencies)—As the bodies of Israeli tourists gunned down in Egypt were brought home today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared Egypt responsible for the safety of visiting Israelis.

"It is not acceptable that Israelis will be repeated targets for killers exploiting the grounds of Egypt for carrying out their low and murderous deeds," Shamir told the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.

Shamir demanded that Egypt find the gunmen who attacked the bus about 37 miles (60 km) east of Cairo, bring them to trial and punish them "with the full weight of the law." Nine Israelis were killed by the gunmen, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Earlier today, Israeli officials reported 10 Israelis had died.

"We see Egypt responsible for the safety and security of the Israeli citizens visiting Egypt," Shamir said.

In a telephone conversation Sunday evening with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Shamir said violence must be stopped before peace can be achieved.

"We must not allow crazy terrorists to torpedo the peace process," Shamir told Mubarak when the Egyptian President called to express condolences. Shamir also said peace efforts must continue despite the slaughter.

A group claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad in Amman and the previously unknown "The Oppressed Egyptians" in Egypt took responsibility for the attack. The Islamic Jihad statement said the group wanted "to hit the peace process in the region."

Egyptian investigators said they found beside a road in the Nile River delta the white Peugeot station wagon used in Sunday's attack. They said they had clues to the attackers.

One survivor likened Sunday's attack to "hell." Twenty Israelis and an Egyptian remained under treatment for bullet and shrapnel wounds and burns after one seriously injured Israeli died.

The bus carried a total of 33 people—31 Israeli tourists, an Egyptian tourist guide and the driver, also an Egyptian.

Israeli embassy spokeswoman Doreet Shavit told THE ASSOCIATED PRESS at mid-morning today that nine Israelis died, 20 were injured and two escaped unhurt.

Egyptian officials and newspapers said the Egyptian tourist guide, Wadia Sorial, 27, was injured but the driver was not.

Ms Shavit said eight Israelis died Sunday—six instantly and two on the way to hospital at the Suez Canal city of Ismailia.

One of the injured Israelis died early today at a Cairo hospital, she said.

An Israeli official in Jerusalem initially said a 10th fatality succumbed to wounds aboard a C-130 Hercules transport plane flown to Cairo to evacuate 16 wounded to Israel.

But the official later admitted he made a mistake and that the death toll stood at nine.

A statement issued by Mubarak said the attack was "directed primarily" against current US-led Middle East peace efforts. He denounced it as "a monstrous aggression."

Another statement from Egypt's Interior Ministry said two gunmen who raked bus passengers with automatic fire and hand grenades "spoke in a non-Egyptian accent," suggesting that they were either Palestinians or from other Arab countries.

Authorities immediately tightened up security in Cairo's southern suburb of al-Ma'adi, where many Israeli diplomats live. Police threw up barricades and checked cars in the suburb, where Egyptian gunmen attacked Israeli diplomats in 1984 and 1985.

A state of alert was also declared in Egypt's sea and air ports to prevent the gunmen from fleeing outside the country.

Egyptian police today questioned the Palestinian driver of the Israeli tourist bus attacked by masked gunmen, security sources said.

They said police were investigating possible collusion between the driver of the bus and the driver of the white Peugeot 505 used to ambush it on Sunday.

The sources said both men were Palestinians from the Rafah area, straddling the border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The sources told REUTERS that security forces were still hunting the Peugeot driver and two other men, a Syrian and a Palestinian with Jordanian nationality.

The bus driver was from the Egyptian side of the border and had taken Egyptian nationality 10 years ago, the sources said.

Egypt's MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY said the bus driver was taken to the scene of the attack along with the abandoned Peugeot in an attempt to reconstruct the ambush.

Police released three men held today for six hours on suspicion of involvement in the attack, security sources said.

They said Saudi passports carried by the men, first believed to be forgeries, had been found to be genuine.

A consular official from the Saudi Arabian embassy had intervened and the men were released after six hours in detention, the sources said.

The radio of a radical Palestinian group said today the militant Islamic Jihad movement carried out the attack on a bus in Egypt.

Operated by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) radio said: "The Isalmic Jihad movement—Bayt al-Maqdis—presents this small operation to the chaste souls of the martyrs of the intifada (uprising) in Palestine."

Islamic Jihad also claimed responsibility in a hand-written statement to an international news agency in the Jordanian capital, Amman. It said the Sunday night raid was part of "our ongoing battle with the Jews until victory is achieved..."

The PFLP-GC radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said: "A group of our dear heroes-...carried out the heroic Rafah operation...."

"I say to the Zionists in Palestine and everywhere, we will fight you, children, women and old men...an eye for an eye," said the statement,transmitted by Al-Quds radio.

President George Bush telephoned Shamir today to offer his condolences over the "horrendous attack" a White House spokesman said.

"This horrible act of terrorism is to be condemned by civilised people everywhere," the State Department said in a statement telephoned to reporters.

"This terrible incident is an obvious attempt by the enemies of peace to halt efforts at reconciliation and dialogue," it said.

The State Department said the US embassy had been in contact with Egyptian authorities.

Britain condemned the attack as a vicious attempt to sabotage chances for peace in the Middle East.

"We utterly condemn this obvious and vicious attempt to sabotage the peace process, which must continue," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Iran praised the attack as an heroic act which could help Muslim fundamentalist groups in Palestine.

State-run Tehran Radio said the attack was significant for its timing, at the height of a US diplomatic initiative aimed at convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation condemned the attack and said it showed the need for faster progress towards a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The PLO news agency WAFA said the attack could not be treated as an isolated incident.

"We would like to recall that hundreds of Palestinians in the occupied territories are being killed or wounded daily. This killing and terrorism is at the hands of Israeli officials, not at the hands of people so far unknown and who have no connection with the PLO," it said.

The executive committee, due to meet this afternoon, is certain to discuss the implications of the attack, PLO sources said.

Palestinian nationalist leader Faysal al-Husayni told REUTERS: "We condemn this act, no matter who committed it."

Arab League Ambassador Hamadi al-Sid condemned the attack but said the crime must be judged in the context of a cycle of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Amir Views Soviet Jews' Emigration to Israel

LD0702140790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1215 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah, Feb 7 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah has described emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Arab land as the "most dangerous decision" designed against the Arab world by the U.S. and the Soviet Union to "conclude the twentieth century."

"Those who made this decision," Shaykh Jabir said, "Talk about the right of the Jewish person to freely

choose where to emigrate and settle, but do not talk about the right of the Arab person in his predecessors' land."

The strongly-worded statements against the U.S. and the Soviet Union by Shaykh Jabir were read by Kuwaiti Minister of Awqar and Islamic Affairs Khalid A. Al-Jasir in opening celebrations of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

The Soviet Union, under years of pressures from the United States and Israel, agreed in the past few months to allow more Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. Circulating reports, confirmed by Israel, indicated that Moscow plans to allow 300,000 Jews to settle in Israel in the next three years.

Israel, meanwhile, has been attempting to convince the new Soviet comers to resettle in Arab occupied lands under a plan to dislodge Palestinians (about two millions) out of lands they lived in for centuries. "A flood of Jewish emigration is originating from the Soviet Union, flowing under flags of human rights and freedom of choice on where to live, with bounds determined by the newly-amended U.S. and European immigration laws," the Amir of Kuwait underlined.

Shaykh Jabir, the current chairman of OIC, emphasized that this exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel "pours into (occupied) Palestine, leaving its Arab inhabitants no choice but to get out and disperse or drown.

"And that's how human rights for them became bright slogans but seeking futile goals. There is no sin more evident than this settling occupation which is trying to evacuate a whole nation from its land and offer it for tongue-and land-strangers."

Referring to the U.S. and Soviet Union, Shaykh Jabir said "We hope that those who created Soviet Jews emigration and those who assisted in directing it toward Palestine reconsider their decision in light of the Arab right."

Speaking on regional disputes, Shaykh Jabir said "We are looking forward for the nearby tomorrow when articles of (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 598 are fully implemented by neighboring Iran and Iraq, the Lebanese legitimacy is stabilized and the people of Afghanistan meet under a peace based on faith and construction."

The Moslem world, he added, groups various political and economic systems which must be acknowledged and exploited to ensure peace and bolster principles of good neighborliness.

"Maintaining bridges among Moslems is a necessity," said the Amir in what appears to be a determination to continue efforts seeking normalization of relations among disputing parties in the Moslem world.

On another issue, the Amir urged the twenty-year-old 46-member organization to strengthen contacts with Moslem minorities in the world in order to maintain Islamic traditions among Moslems in non-Islamic countries.

"OIC has a responsibility to strengthen lines of contacts with Moslem communities, dispersed in the world, to continue living on teachings of Islamic faith, peaceful co-existence with others and participation in building life," Shaykh Jabir stated.

He also called upon Moslem states to review current education and information programs and present them in a manner which underline Islamic teachings emphasizing brotherhood and love.

OIC's executive institutions, he maintained, are invited to examine these objectives within a comprehensive plan taking into consideration the future of the Islamic world.

OIC should also shoulder the responsibility for presenting islamic principles to the outside world to eliminate stereotyped images engraved in the minds of non Moslems about Islam, the Amir asserted.

"We, as Moslems, are obliged to cooperate to present Islam internationally in an objective and correct manner, fending off suspicions in a world reiterating plurality and co-existence," the Amir concluded.

Saudi Arabia

Suspect 'of Arab Appearance' Sought in Killings

PM0702155990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 90 pp 1-2

[Muhammad al-Tunsi report: "Thailand Reveals New Clues"]

[Text] A senior official in the high investigation committee in Thailand has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the security authorities in Bangkok are in possession of clues concerning the assassination the day before yesterday of three Saudi diplomats: 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Basri, 31, head of the consular section at the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok, and his colleagues Fahd 'Abdallah al-Bahli, 28, and Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Sayf, 26.

The Thai official, who asked to remain anonymous, said "the investigation authorities have determined the type of weapon used in the killing of the three diplomats, namely, 6.35 mm pistols similar to the type used in the killing of the Saudi diplomat 'Abdallah al-Malki, who was martyred after he was shot in the head 4 January last year—which has aroused the investigation authorities' suspicions about a link between the two crimes."

Asked whether the Thai police will reinterrogate the Thai man who was arrested a few months ago on the charge of assassinating diplomat Al-Malki but denied

any connection—although he is known to be a professional killer—the Thai official expressed reservations about that matter, saying: The police are examining the possibility the crime may have international connections, especially as one of the suspects, according to witnesses, is of Middle Eastern appearance.

Asked about the suspect the Thai security organs said is "Arab," the Thai official said: "What is important for the course of the investigation is the police have, through witnesses, discovered one of the criminals who carried out the assassination is of Arab appearance, but he may not necessarily be an Arab. The information which we now have is based on the descriptions given by eyewitnesses."

He added: "The Thai authorities are trying to close all the routes through which the criminals, especially the non-Thai person, may attempt to escape. The police have distributed artist's reconstructions of the suspects and are watching all exits from the country."

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, Saudi Arabia had demanded the Thai Government shoulder its responsibility quickly, in full, to identify the criminals and bring them to justice. The statement also said: "The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques is awaiting information from the authorities in the Thai Government in order to take the necessary measures."

Yemen Arab Republic

Jordanian Minister Arrives With Husayn Message

JN0802073690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Brother Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din arrived in Sanaa today on a visit during which he will convey a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan.

The minister clarified in a statement to SABA' news agency the message deals with the coming meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's Supreme Council.

Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and Standing Committee member; brother Muhammad al-Qar'an, Jordanian charge d'affaires in Sanaa; and a representative from the Protocol Office received him.

Jordanian, Libyan, Ethiopian Officials Meet Salih

JN0802114590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night received brother Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, Jordan's information minister and acting foreign minister.

The minister handed the president a message from his brother King Husayn, including an invitation to attend the meetings of the Supreme Committee of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] in Amman toward the end of February. The message also deals with issues of concern to the ACC.

The brother president secretary general also received brother Engineer Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, who conveyed to the president a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution. The message deals with the fraternal bilateral relations and Arab and international developments. The president conveyed through the Libyan official a message to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday evening also received Ashaqre Yigletu, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and deputy prime minister for social affairs, who conveyed to the president a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern to both countries.

INA Cites Egyptian Spokesman on Bus Attack

JN0702205390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (INA)—It has been announced here that unidentified persons attacked a bus carrying some Zionist tourists on the Ismailia-Cairo road. A spokesman for the Egyptian Interior Ministry said tonight that some of the tourists were wounded. But he failed to give a number of those wounded [words indistinct] or to identify the attackers.

Message of UN Delegate Reiterates Call on POW's

JN3101193390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The United Nations, 31 Jan (INA)—The permanent Iraqi delegate at the United Nations has declared that the Iranian regime uses propaganda ploys in a bid to delude the United Nations and the international community, and make them ease off the pressure on Iran to effect a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war [POW's].

This came in a message sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and distributed here today as an official document of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted] The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency, the UN Secretary General:

Having taken cognizance of the message dated 15 January 1990 addressed to the UN secretary general by the permanent Iranian delegate at the United Nations, a message that confirms that the Iranian regime is persisting in its use of propaganda ploys to deceive the UN body and the international community in order to ease off the pressure to effect a comprehensive exchange of POW's, we would like to state the following:

1. The Iranian regime's allegations that it has been trying to alleviate the suffering of the POW's since the beginning of the war are groundless and without foundation, as this regime has continued to reject Iraq's numerous initiatives toward a comprehensive exchange of POW's in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. Besides, the UN secretary general and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] are well aware of the positions of both Iraq and Iran on this humanitarian issue.

A reading of the figures on the Iraqi POW's repatriated to Iraq, and listed on the table enclosed with the Iranian message, makes it clear that these figures reflect only a very tiny percentage of the number of registered and nonregistered Iraqi POW's still detained in Iran—the POW's who have continued to suffer behind bars despite the actual cessation of hostilities on 20 August 1988.

Moreover, the fact that the Iranian regime is mentioning these figures at this point in time shows the deceptive approach practiced by this regime, which seeks to exploit this issue as propaganda designed to ease the pressure it is experiencing due to its disgraceful stand on the POW's—a stand that contravenes the international laws enshrined in the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

2. The Iranian message said that Iran permitted 27,800 families to visit 9,900 Iraqi POW's. This allegation is groundless. Furthermore, this clearly reflects the unmistakable nature of the Iranian regime which has become well known for lies, dishonesty, and deception.

Iraq was the first to call for allowing the families of POW's to visit their POW's in the two countries. Moreover, the initiative recently announced by President Saddam Husayn in the speech he delivered to mark the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army on 5 January 1990 talked about organizing such visits. However, these calls, as is well known to the UN secretary general and the ICRC, have not been favorably received by the Iranian side.

3. Since the eruption of the war with Iran and up to the present, the Iraqi Government has spared no efforts to end the suffering of the POW's. It has been in touch with various international and humanitarian organizations and with world states to achieve this objective. Moreover, it responded favorably to all initiatives and appeals for a compresive exchange of the POW's of the Iraq-Iran war.

To allow the United Nations to have an idea of the Iranian POW's who have been released by the Iraqi Government and who number 977, we enclose below a list containing the groups of released POW's and the dates on which they were released:

Batch	Number of POW's Released	Date of Release
1. First batch	25	16 January 81
2. Second batch	40	25 August 81
3. Third batch	37	15 December 81
4. Fourth batch	32	30 April 83
5. Fifth batch	190	29 January 84
6. Sixth batch	100	20 October 84
7. Seventh batch	30	27 May 85
8. Eighth batch	30	2 July 85
9. Ninth batch	29	7 August 85
10. Tenth batch	28	5 September 85
11. Eleventh batch	55	9 October 85
12. Miscellaneous batch	8	Returned to relatives under ICRC auspices
13. Twelfth batch	17	21 November 85
14. Thirteenth batch	25	30 October 88
15. Fourteenth batch	56	24, 26, and 27 November 88
16. Fifteenth batch	255	23, 24 January 89
17. Sixteenth batch	20	18 January 90
Grand total	977	

4. On this occasion, the Iraqi Government would like to reiterate once again the initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in the speech that he delivered to mark the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army on 5 January 1990—an initiative in which he called for the release of all sick and wounded POW's without exception and for their repatriation, for the release of the POW's who have spent a long time in captivity—that is, the POW's captured during 1980, 1981, and 1982—and also for the registration of all nonregistered POW's. All these measures were proposed as part of the effort to effect a comprehensive exchange of POW's to end their agony and their families' concern.

Your excellency,

My country's government hopes that you, the ICRC, and the international community will support this initiative and urge Iran to accept it in accordance with Article No. 118 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 concerning POW's.

We also hope that you will distribute this message as an official document of the UN Security Council.

Please accept my best regards.

Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society Issues Statement

JN0702185890 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 7, INA—The Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society highly appreciated the new Iraqi peace plan, announced by President Saddam Husayn on 5th last Jan.

In a statement issued here today, the friendship society said that public opinion in the Soviet Union received the peace initiative with satisfaction because it embodied principles contributing to concluding a peace agreement between the two countries.

The exchang of meetings between leaderships in both Iraq and Iran or their representatives under the patronage of the United Nations secretary, it pointed out, would help to put an end to the current state of no war, no peace.

The statement stressed that the Iraqi proposals would eliminate the psychological barriers between the two people which were created by the eight year Iraq-Iran war .

The friendship society expressed deep concern over the current situation between Iraq and Iran and called for mobilizing all efforts to restore the Iraqi-Iranian contacts and talks.

PLO List of Delegates to Talks Released

TA0802101990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 90 p A7

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The PLO has relayed to the United States, via Egypt, the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation who are supposed to be Israel's counterparts in the talks in Cairo.

[A related report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef in Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 8 February on page A1 provides this and the following additions: "The list originally included 16 names, but three of them were rejected out of hand for their membership in PLO bodies. In the end, only 10 will come to the talks, and the United States and Israel will reserve the right to disqualify another three, as long as the East Jerusalem population and the deportees are represented."]

No agreement has been reached yet as to who will announce composition of the delegation. The United States so far has refrained from officially delivering the list to Israel, so as not to embarrass the prime minister before the Likud Central Committee meeting and to avoid giving the document premature publicity, because this might anger radical elements in the territories.

The Palestinian delegation was composed according to a key considering locations, organizations affiliated with the PLO, and the Christian minority.

The most senior member of the delegation is Faysal al-Husayni who, together with Dr. Sari Nusaybah, will represent East Jerusalem. The two men have addresses in the territories as well—in Ramallah and Abu-Dis respectively—and this was considered to make it easier for the Likud to accept their nomination.

The Ramallah region will be represented by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association. He is considered the number two man in the hierarchy of Fatah supporters in the territories and is a member of a family of refugees from the Jamusin [placename as published] neighborhood of north Tel Aviv. Ghassan al-Shak'ah and Mahir al-Masri, sons of prominent Nabulus clans, will represent that city.

Mahir al-Masri has so far been out of the limelight. He gained fame only once when, 22 years ago, he and a group of Nabulus youths were apprehended and charged with transferring explosives to Fatah and training with firearms. His father, Muhammad al-Masri, was a Haifa Arab whose Haifa-born wife came from the Tayyar family. He later moved to Nabulus with his wife, who died there in 1951.

The Hebron region will be represented on the delegation by Mustafa al-Natshah, who previously had served as deputy mayor and subsequently stepped into the shoes of Fahd al-Qawasimi, who was deported to Jordan and later murdered there.

The Gaza area is expected to be represented in the talks by Attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, who had been appointed to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and who is considered a senior Fatah activist in the Gaza Strip. Other representatives from that region will be Zakariyya al-Agha and As'ad al-Saftawi, a religious Fatah man associated with the Islamic Jihad.

Two other candidates have been mentioned, one of whom will be appointed to represent the Christian community in the territories. They are Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah.

So much for the representatives of the residents of the territories—all of whom are Fatah supporters. In addition to them, the PLO appointed to the delegation two deportees who have never been charged with terrorist acts. They are Taysir al-'Aruri, who was in the most recent group of deportees during the intifadah, and 'Azmi Shu'aybi, a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Nayif Hawatimah.

It should be pointed out the personalities chosen by the PLO to represent the Palestinians in the Cairo talks are known to be members of the traditional group of Fatah supporters in East Jerusalem and the territories.

[MA'ARIV adds: "The delegation does not include representatives of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) or of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."]

In this sense, the list is characterized by the number of people who are thought to be moderate. Yet these men are largely dependent on 'Arafat's favors. With the exception of Faysal al-Husayni, none of them enjoys an independent status that will permit them to espouse positions conflicting with mainstream PLO views.

Senior Likud political circles emphasized yesterday that Mr. Shamir will not, at this stage, accept the inclusion of deportees or representatives from East Jerusalem.

At the same time, the sources pointed out if a technical arrangement is found to permit the return of the deportees to the territories prior to the beginning of the talks, and if the Jerusalem representatives are registered as residents of the territories on the basis of dual residences, the prime minister may soften his position.

Senior American sources last night expressed the fear the early leak of the list of names could result in a confrontation between the nationalist organizations in the territories and draw fire against the candidates.

Media, Official Response to Bus Attack Continues

Paper Supports Tripartite Meeting

TA0702173190 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Why Avoid the Challenge?"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department announced it has been decided to postpone the tripartite meeting scheduled for Geneva between Baker, 'Abd-al-Majid, and Arens.

The delay comes in the wake of the attack on the tourist bus on the Ismailia-Cairo highway, in which nine Israelis were killed. This proves U.S. diplomatic efforts aimed at establishing peace in the region have been derailed.

Despite Cairo's firm, resolute stance regarding this operation and those who implemented it, a kind of coolness has appeared in Egyptian-Israeli relations. This "short-term" phenomenon is difficult to isolate from the interests that link the two countries in the long term.

Though the Egyptian and Israeli sides have denounced this attack, considering it a flagrant attempt by the foes of peace to obstruct the efforts of dialogue and accommodation, those same foes of peace must not be allowed to achieve their goals.

The mere decision to postpone the tripartite talks is bound to serve the parties opposed to such meetings. It had been expected operations would take place to impede the peace process; the recent operation or its sequels, therefore, are not a surprise. Perhaps, too, it is not sheer coincidence this attack came when preparations are being made for convening the Likud Party Central Committee meetings. This is the greatest service to the "constraints ministers"—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—who are trying very hard to thwart any Palestinian-Israeli encounter. The adherents of the Israeli extremists, therefore, will succeed in silencing the voices of moderation and logic.

The calls of peace require the Egyptian and Israeli Governments not permit radicals to destroy the peace process. If the tripartite meeting is postponed, Israel will find a pretext to the effect "the climate of terrorism is impeding the peace process," while this delay will strengthen the conviction of the Arabs and the Palestinians that Israel rejects a meeting because it wants to freeze the status quo and gain time!

In light of these facts, it is the U.S. position that will decide which direction the peace process will take. As for Egypt, it is working to contain the explosive situation. Egypt is convinced the forces of moderation in the Arab world cannot rest until the Palestinians and the Israelis reach a settlement acceptable to both sides, and that no progress can be achieved in the face of Israeli intransigence: hence, the Egyptian reaction to the "bus operation."

We would have liked to see Washington persisting in conducting the tripartite meeting on its date, even though the participants might not have been able to reach agreement and/or achieve any progress in the peace process.

This would have been a message to the extremists the peace process cannot be halted by such acts. As to the statement by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that "it is impossible for the peace process to achieve any progress without destroying the centers of terrorism and violence," this is a return to old, futile statements aimed at avoiding difficult, bold decisions regarding the Palestinian problem, whose solution is regarded as the basis for ending the terrorism and violence referred to by Netanyahu.

Granting the region's nations their rights is the only way to put an end to hatred and enmity and pave the way for the search for new formulas for coexistence and understanding.

But maintaining the status quo and attempting to curb violence with counterviolence is a path fraught with dangers and adventures, which undoubtedly will lead to a dead end.

In sum, the postponement of the tripartite meeting represents a step backward and avoids the challenge directed against a settlement and peace.

Arab Media Fomenting 'Terrorism'

JN0702172090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 7 Feb 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, immediately after a group of ill-natured persons and scum of the human race carried out the terrorist crime last Sunday evening against Israeli tourists on the Ismailia-Cairo road, official and unofficial voices were heard from various Arab capitals and Arab and Palestinian circles denouncing and condemning this heinous crime.

These Arab and Palestinian denunciations and condemnations undoubtedly are a very positive phenomenon. This is not only because these voices are in line with common sense and human and civilized values, but also because they absolutely contravene those Arab and Palestinian voices which not too long ago used to welcome and hail the ugliest terrorist and inhuman crimes against defenseless Israeli civilians—children, women, and old men—describing such crimes as heroic deeds.

The question crossing the mind in this respect, however, is whether it is enough to utter Arab denunciations and condemnations whenever Arab or Palestinian terrorism rears its ugly and spiteful head.

The tragic fact is all the Arab governments in general affirm their principled objection to terrorism and their determination to uproot it. They also affirm the desire for peace and security in our region. But it generally can be said the Arab mass media have played and continue to play an extremely negative, destructive role against the cause of peace and coexistence between peoples and religions by creating an appropriate climate and providing a hotbed for terrorism and terrorist crimes against the Palestinian people and the entire Jewish people.

Instead of working around the clock to prepare for and create an appropriate climate for peace, bringing peoples closer, and sowing the seeds of coexistence among peoples and religions, Arab journalists are continuously busy propagating all sorts of demagogic lies and mean or absurd frauds against Israel and its people.

Even worse, some Arab writers do not hesitate to employ religion in their anti-Israel campaign to instigate religious feuds through mean and sinister lies. Others do not hesitate to follow the meanest methods in their attempts at inciting criminal racial bias or ignoble and cheap provocations.

In view of this tragic picture of the negative, destructive role played by a considerable portion of the Arab mass media against the issue of coexistence and peace among peoples and religions, the question that poses itself is: How does this tragic picture agree with the Arab leaders' affirmation of their desire to achieve peace? Is the right hand unaware of what the left hand is doing? Or is the left hand trying to sabotage what the right hand is trying to build?

The Arab officials undoubtedly realize the aspired-for peace is not a banner adorned with roses or beautiful colors, and that peace cannot be achieved in a vacuum, but in the souls of hearts of peoples.

In addition to political and diplomatic efforts, peace therefore requires that a proper political, psychological media climate for the achievement of peace be created.

The Arab leaders and responsible Arab officials certainly should give this subject the attention it deserves, not as a favor to Israel and its people, but to serve their peoples and their real interests per se.

'Radical' Parties Benefit

TA0702162690 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Peace Must Remain the Desired Objective"]

[Text] No sooner was the attack on the bus in Ismailia reported than the Israeli right wing—from Shamir to Sharon—hastened to issue statements about hatred of Israel and the uselessness of peace with the Arabs, as well as requests from Israelis not to visit Egypt.

If anyone was presuming to be congratulated for this "achievement" it is the radicals on both sides, for they have received no finer gift! Israel can now gain the world's sympathy for its propaganda campaign by saying: "Look at a country with which a peace agreement has been in effect for 12 years, but on whose territory a number of Israelis were killed. How do you expect us to trust agreements and agree to settlements with the other Arab countries and the Palestinians?" Apparently the bus incident provides the Israeli right wing with a pretext to delay and obstruct any progress in the peace process.

This incident also represents a victory for Arab and Palestinian extremists. Perhaps this was the aim of the attack!

So the question posed is: Who benefited from the attack on the tourist bus near Ismailia?

Are the Arabs and the Israelis competing over who is able to inflict more injury on the other side? The operation has succeeded in embarrassing Cairo, bearing in mind Cairo has spared no effort to advance the peace process in an attempt to end the cycles of violence not only between Egypt and Israel, but also between Israel and the Palestinians. There are radical parties that are not pleased with the Egyptian tendencies of rejecting compromise and moderation.

The Palestinians in the occupied territories and the Palestinian leadership reject violence from whatever source. We are certain one can emerge from this cycle of violence by moving toward a just peace, giving all the region's nations their legitimate rights, and by refraining from placing obstacles before the peace process.

There is no doubt this incident should reinforce the insistence of all rational people and peace forces on the need to reach a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The cycles of violence are growing, and if they are not contained, we will reach a point of no return. Then the radicals will dominate the arena and will be able to burn the hopes and aspirations of the region's nations. Each side's dream of vanquishing the other must be terminated. This requires all parties to realize either all of us will live on this land, or we will destroy each other. Should violence continue, there will be no victor; rather, all of us will losers.

Both Palestinians and Israelis are today waging a war of attrition. Each side is trying to impose its will on the other. After more than four decades of this conflict, it now is certain anyone who believes a resolution of the problem can be achieved on the battlefield is entertaining fatal illusions.

It is a cause for regret that because of the absence of a solution, enmity will continue and hatred between the Arab and Israeli peoples will deepen. Despite Israeli public opinion's conviction of the need to seek a formula for dealing with the new developments in the Middle East, the Israeli leadership is continuing on its futile course of refusing to deal with the new forces in the Arab arena. These forces have adopted a new strategy based on reaching a settlement of the conflict through negotiations.

The Israeli political establishment's failure to change its perceptions and absorb the changes in the Arab world, in addition to the failure of the United States to play an active role in advancing the peace process, will lead many in the Arab world to move away from moderation and will increase support for extremism. It is the responsibility of Israel and the United States to defuse the bomb about to blow up the region again!

Thatcher Sends Condolences

TA0802092790 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 7 Feb 90

["Communicated by the Prime Minister's Media Advisor"—GPO subslug]

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent the following message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir:

"I was appalled to hear of the savage attack on a party of Israeli tourists in Egypt on 4 February. Those responsible for this outrage must be brought to justice. I am confident you will do everything you can to ensure those who resort to terrorism to frustrate the Middle East peace process do not prevail. Please accept my sincere condolences."

Arens Rejects Protest to Egypt

TA0802055790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has dismissed the demand from Minister Ari'el Sharon that Israel send a strongly worded protest to Egypt in the wake of the terrorist attack. In an interview with reporter Jack Katzenell, Arens said Israel cannot force Egypt to expel the PLO, as Sharon is demanding:

[Begin recording] [Arens] We know that such a thing can happen in Egypt, unfortunately. We know that there are terrorist organizations that operate in Egypt—some surreptitiously, as was the case of the organization that carried out this attack, the Islamic Jihad; some not so surreptitiously, like the PLO. This is a situation that we're not at all happy with. We know that the Egyptian Government is working in an attempt to suppress this kind of terrorism not only because it's directed against us—some of it—and not only because it is directed against tourism—which is a source of very considerable income to Egypt—but also because the Egyptian Government sees it as a danger to itself, to the stability of its own regime.

[Katzenell] Do you not intend to demand of Egypt to get rid of these offices of the PLO, for example, which by your own definition are branches of the terrorist organization?

[Arens] The Egyptians have no illusions about Israel's position on the PLO and on our views about the PLO presence in Egypt, but we're not in position to force Egypt's hand. All we can do is let the Egyptians know what our opinions are. As you know, the policy of the Egyptian Government is to maintain close relations with the PLO. [end recording]

'No Evidence' of PLO Role

TA0802110190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] There is no evidence that the PLO was involved in the bus terror attack carried out this week in Egypt, reliable officials said yesterday.

The assessment would seem to contradict remarks made by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who told the foreign press two days ago that Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah group is linked to the Amman-based Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the attack. [passage omitted]

Expected Events After Likud Conference Viewed

TA0702115290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 90 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "When the Prime Minister Resigns"]

[Text] There is no other Western country in which the media and the public so hectically and daily deal with predictions on what is to come and what is to be expected.

The Israeli media headlines are the most future-oriented in the world, perhaps because the name of the game here is postponement. Now we have another postponement—in making the Likud's decision—and let no one there tell you he does not enjoy the extra time.

Everyone is enjoying it. Sharon and his supporters because this prevents a debate in which they will most probably (futurism!) would fail; and the prime minister because he managed to postpone the repulsive scenes. The ugly argument between the Likud rivals, however, often blurs the basic fact of Israel's get-along politics: Shamir does not want it any more than Sharon [sentence as published].

When the delegates meet for their seasonal ritual of commotion, this basic fact will be present. So based on the best traditions of Israeli stargazing, here are the expected stations on the way to the future. They lead to the prime minister's resignation, accompanied by a humble recommendation from the writer of these lines that, eventually, Shamir should do just that.

1. After some time—and it does not matter exactly how long—the Central Committee will convene and pledge its support for the prime minister. This body may be wild, but it is not crazy. Its men will not want to jeopardize the party's position as the state's ruler by pulling the rug from under the feet of the movement's leader.

2. Given this mandate, the prime minister will agree only to a part of the U.S. and Egyptian suggestions. For

example, he will agree to the participation of two deportees, but not representatives from East Jerusalem. Flames will shoot out again from both Right and Left. Washington and Cairo will fail to get the PLO's acceptance of Shamir's suggestions.

The Alignment will scream to high heaven that the Likud is guilty of sabotage. The road will be blocked again, just as the prime minister wants it to be, since his main goal is to prevent the opening of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, which is an opening for a disaster, to the best of his knowledge.

3. In the crisis that will evolve, the prime minister will announce his resignation. By law, the whole government then will resign and become a caretaker government. Shamir will be able to say, for example, the Americans with the Egyptians want to push us back to the 1967 borders, which includes forsaking Jerusalem's unity. His conscience will not allow him to do so. Please, Shamir will say loud and clear, let the people decide.

4. A caretaker government has three choices: Elections, a narrow-based coalition led by the Likud, or a narrow-based coalition led by the Alignment. Shamir will prefer the first because of the slim chances of a narrow-based government surviving, and also because of Shamir's deep conviction that at a time such as this, Israel had better have a wide-based regime. The prime minister will have enough time: There is no "coming or going" in a caretaker government. In the early 1960's, such a government managed to survive for seven months, while Levi Eshkol was trying to to form a coalition for David Ben-Gurion.

5. One can trust Shim'on Peres to make extreme efforts to form a government even before the president summons him and the prime minister to find a way out of the mess. After Charlie Biton joins the Alignment, it will have the same number of Knesset seats as the Likud. Peres will claim under such circumstances there is no reason for him not to exhaust every possibility to head the government. The coalition agreement does state elections are to be conducted if this government falls apart, but Peres has overcome obstacles far greater than this. Furthermore he can, as he does already, declare he has 63 Knesset members, and in any event—are we so crazy that we let ourselves be dragged into an election campaign in such difficult times? Yitzhaq Rabin will not stand in the way of such a move until it becomes apparent the Citizens Rights Movement and the religious parties are not in the Alignment's pocket. Then, he will support conducting new elections.

6. After a certain period of unproductive contacts, a joint Shamir-Rabin front will be formed (there is none stronger in our politics) for elections. Rabin not only will be looking for the best way out of the crisis: it is common knowledge Rabin's only chance to confront Peres over the party's leadership is elections.

7. As far as Shamir is concerned, calling for elections will give him the appropriate stately appearance of a leader who wants what is best for the state even at a price of him (temporarily) renouncing his throne. His greatest achievement, however, will be the one he cares about most: Preventing an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. By now it is already the middle of the year, and, as everyone knows, no elections are conducted in the summer. God is great, and Shamir has managed to postpone the disaster until autumn. In the election campaign, he and his party will be able to say they are using their bodies to block the U.S.-Egyptian conspiracy, to which the Alignment is party, to sell out Israel.

What will happen in the elections is anyone's guess. In the meantime, however, the prime minister has neutralized his party rivals and is portrayed as someone who has made a great decision. Ever since the time of Ben-Gurion—the chief resigning figure in Israel's political history—never has such a use been made of throwing the glove into the ring. Consider the alternative if he continues to be dragged, heading a failing government, by the power of the events that brought him this far.

Will it be like this, or have we dreamed it?

Arens on CPSU Surrendering Monopoly on Power

TA0702183090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by foreign affairs editor Gid'on Remez "a few minutes ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arens] The CPSU's decision to surrender its monopoly on power represents a historic change within the Soviet Union.

I would not say this applies outside the Soviet Union, because all the East European countries, which in the past had been considered its satellites, actually beat the Soviet Union to the punch by calling for democratic, multiparty elections.

In many respects, I would say what has happened in Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany was a catalyst for the Soviet Union and, I suppose, encouraged many in the Soviet Union to demand something which half a year ago would have been incredible: that is, to have free and multiparty elections in the Soviet Union.

[Remez] How will a more democratic Soviet Union affect the international arena, including our region?

[Arens] It will have a favorable effect. This is the best news the world has heard since the end of World War II, because for the last 45 years the world has lived under the shadow of the intransigent ideological dispute between communism and democracy, the so-called cold war.

The confrontation suddenly no longer is there and the cold war is over. Now there is democracy in the East, too, where they are saying democracy and a free economy are the right way to go.

[Remez] Conservatives in the Soviet Union have voiced their concern foregoing the traditional communist regime might lead to anarchy, while liberals say all sorts of forces will surface, not all of them particularly positive. Do Israel and the Jews in the Soviet Union have reason to fear the debilitation of the regime which so far has curbed and restrained those forces?

[Arens] Anarchy definitely is a bad thing, and who knows how things will develop if anarchy erupts in the Soviet Union. It seems to me all the countries of the world—certainly Israel—pray and hope this will not be the case, and that the Soviets will manage to make the difficult transition from dictatorship and communism to democracy, and will do so in an orderly, proper manner without degenerating into anarchy. The spread of anarchy definitely would be dangerous to all inhabitants of the Soviet Union—we are first and foremost worried about the Jews—and perhaps even to the entire world.

[Remez] Do you think a Soviet Union not limited to communist thought will be able to reassess its relations with other countries, including Israel, and to accelerate the process of normalizing relations?

[Arens] I have no doubt about that. I am stating this with so much certainty, because we have had several similar experiences. One of the characteristics of the East European countries which underwent democratization and reverted to multiparty systems or are in the process of doing so is the establishment—renewal for the most part—of relations and friendship with Israel.

These are countries which for many decades held hostile positions toward Israel, supported the most extreme Arab positions, supplied arms to the Arabs, and trained terrorists on their soil. The transition to democracy is coupled with a favorable, very favorable, change in attitude toward Israel. I think this also will be the case with the Soviet Union.

Sununu Links Aid to Flexibility in Peace Process

TA0702161690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Report by Drora Perle on meeting between White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and the America Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington on 5 February—recorded]

[Text] According to Jewish sources here, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu told America Israel Public Affairs Committee leaders there must be a correlation between U.S. aid and Israeli flexibility regarding the peace process.

The meeting was conducted Monday at the Israeli Embassy in Washington and was attended by senior embassy staffers, including Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad. Upon his arrival, Sununu became the highest-level U.S. Administration official ever to visit the Israeli Embassy.

Sununu also addressed the question of settling immigrants in the territories and, in this context, mentioned the issue of the interchanging [halufiyut] of U.S. aid funds. Sununu said, obviously, only funds used by Israel within the boundaries of the Green Line—as required—makes money available for the construction of settlements and the absorption of immigrants in the territories.

According to the sources, it was not altogether clear from Sununu's remarks whether he was referring only to the special aid Israel is requesting to help absorb the immigrants, or to U.S. aid in general. Sununu left this point unclear also in his address to the American Jewish Committee a few days ago, where he once again mentioned the need to establish a link between U.S. aid and the peace process.

White House senior officials are split over whether these two issues should be linked. Sununu is one of the supporters and promoters of the notion of linking the aid Israel receives from the United States to progress on the peace process.

Student Loan Agreement Signed With PRC

TA0802072690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav and Li Luye, PRC ambassador to the UN, signed an agreement last night in New York on reciprocal loans for Chinese students to study Hebrew in Israel and Israeli students to study Chinese in the PRC.

'Oded Ben-'Ami, our correspondent in the United States, reports the Israeli academic center soon will begin operating in Beijing.

'Cautious Optimism' Expressed on USSR Flights

TA0802055290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] U.S. President George Bush has called on the Soviet Union to allow direct flights for Jews from Moscow to Israel and to renew diplomatic ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

There is cautious optimism from Israeli immigration officials over the possibility that the Soviets will allow direct flights following U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit to Moscow and the comment by President Bush. If the flights do not go into effect, however, Israel will turn to other venues to bring Jews out of the Soviet Union, including using airports in Turkey, Finland, Poland, and Yugoslavia.

Hundreds of Jewish tourists from the Soviet Union are asking to remain in Israel, but authorities are reluctant to take such a step for fear of harming ties with the Soviet Union. About 1,000 tourists visit Israel from the Soviet Union each month.

1 Killed, About 10 Wounded in Rafah Clashes

TA0702183490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Iman Zakut, 19, was killed today in the Rafah refugee camp. Local Arabs say he was killed in a clash with soldiers. His body was taken to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus, but later was snatched and buried by his relatives. Military sources say the Army is looking into his death.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports about 10 people were wounded today in clashes with soldiers in Rafah. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 7 February adds: "A firebomb was thrown this evening at a bus traveling near the Old City in Jerusalem. The firebomb smashed one of the bus windows but did not explode or cause any injuries."]

Arab Dies of Wounds; Another Murdered in Gaza

TA0802091490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] A resident of the Bani-Suhaylah township near Khan Yunus died this morning of his wounds in Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

The youth was wounded yesterday during riots in the township. He was operated on in a Khan Yunus hospital, but when his condition worsened, he was transferred to Soroka Hospital, where he later died.

A 30-year-old Gaza resident was murdered this morning. His mutilated body was found on Thalathun Street in the city. Disturbances were noted in Rafah this morning as well.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 8 February reports "last night in Bani-Suhaylah in the Gaza Strip, the house of a member of a local strike committee was demolished."]

No Casualties, Damage as 'Small' Charge Explodes

TA0802061890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] A short time ago a small explosive charge went off at the French Hill junction in Jerusalem. It had been placed in a pile of garbage. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports police sappers and investigators arrived at the site.

Engineers Corps Chief on Syrian Defense Upgrade

TA0802103090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 7 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Syrians are engaged in a continuing process of fortification, digging anti-tank ditches, and planting mines on the Golan Heights. Their defense systems are more complicated today, says Brigadier General Yishay Dotan, chief of the Engineering Corps. Our military affairs correspondent, 'Amos Har'el, heard him on the day of the Corp's operational readiness: The Syrian defense deployment on the Golan Heights constantly has developed in the last few years, Gen. Dotan says. They are in a constant process of upgrading. [passage omitted]

Israel also is in a state of constant improvement on the Golan Heights, Gen. Dotan said. Our deployment definitely is being kept up and maintained on a constant basis. As for the Syrian side, he says, breaching never was easy. I believe the means we now have, when combined with drills and exercises, make us capable of confronting this difficulty if we have to.

Concerning chemical weapons, Gen. Dotan says: I believe the question of whether or not the Syrians or other Arab countries have such an ability no longer exists. It is clear to us this issue must be taken into account. [passage omitted]

100th Soldier Refuses To Serve in Territories

TA0702201690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] A major in the reserves has been sentenced to 25 days in prison for refusing to serve in the territories.

Our correspondent Shlomo Arad reports Major Tzvi Nir'el is the highest-ranking officer to refuse service in the territories and the 100th conscientious objector since the beginning of the intifadah.

Eleven officers so far have been sentenced to prison for refusing to serve in the territories.

New Army Equipment Introduced; Houses Sealed

TA0802060290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has begun experimental use of a new way to fight stone throwers: a minigravel launcher.

Installed on a jeep, it can fire egg-size stones at an effective range of some 75 meters. The new gravel launcher can fire up to 600 stones per minute. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports it can be operated by a single man, and it can fire single or bursts of stones. Soldiers have expressed satisfaction with this new piece of equipment.

The security forces last night sealed three houses in Janin. The houses belong to members of a squad of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the three recently were captured after being wanted for a long time. They are suspected of involvement in the murder of four Janin residents whom they suspected of collaboration with the authorities. They also are suspected of throwing a firebomb in Janin and attacking many other Janin residents for collaboration.

Media Response to Attack on Israeli Tourists

Israel 'Hiding Behind' Incident

JN0702201990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Feb 90 p 24

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Bus Incident, the Victim, and the Killer"]

[Text] There is no world state that benefits from the killing of its nationals like Israel does.

There likewise are no people who benefit more from those among their ranks being killed than the Jews. This has been substantiated throughout the Jews' long history.

The Israeli bus incident in Egypt is being used to serve Ari'el Sharon in his fight with Yitzhaq Shamir over Likud leadership. It also is being used to serve Yitzhaq Shamir in his struggle with the Labor Party with the aim of abandoning the "peace plan." The Israeli Government, moreover, also is using the incident to shirk its responsibilities to its U.S. ally and Egyptian partner. Had it not been for the bus incident, these power struggles would not have waited another week, during which time each side would have ample room to improve his bargaining position with the other sides.

The Israeli media, which have gone to extremes in justifying the killing of Palestinians, the demolition of their homes, and their arrests and starvation, has hastened to exploit the bus incident. It has not left any Egyptian official, or Arab in Galilee villages and cities, or any mayor or well-known figure in the West Bank and Gaza unqueried on "this horrendous and criminal act." Of course, those questioned initially respond by agreeing the act is criminal and horrendous, and they attempt to condemn extremism and violence as though the daily practices being perpetrated by "the Jewish state" against the Palestinians are manifestations of a chivalrous and civilized behavior, and as though this state were not committing "horrendous and criminal acts" on a daily basis.

The official Zionist media, which has been justifying Zionist terrorism, is attempting to conceal its disgrace by hiding behind the bus incident.

Let us be reasonable in our handling of the incident. Let us try to understand the Palestinians are part of us, and the atrocities and brutalities being perpetrated against them enrage Arabs inside and outside Egypt. Israeli male and female soldiers can take off their uniforms, leave their weapons on the border, and be insolent enough to despise the Arab people by coming to Egypt as tourists. But this cannot strip the provoked Egyptian citizen—whether he is a bellhop in a hotel, a waiter in a restaurant, or a tourist guide—of his rage and indignation over the daily brutalities being perpetrated by the Israeli army in the cities of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Why do they kill us and continue to believe they can be safe in our streets and cities?

Why do they kill us and continue to believe the Arab people accept them as killers there and tourists in Egypt?

Why do they believe we want to be killed in their own way? Do not we have the right to kill in our own way?

We do not believe they are "God's chosen people," as their God is "the God of Israel, the Lord of hosts". As for our God, He is "the Lord of all people." They are people who kill and get killed in Egypt or anywhere else, just as they killed Arabs in Bahr al-Baqar, Kafr Asad, Nabulus, Hebron, and Ramallah.

We cannot have any different feelings when we read about the Israeli bus incident. Tell the killer he will be killed.

Paper Ridicules U.S. 'Anger'

JN0802093590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
8 Feb 90 First Edition p 12

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Why This American Campaign Over the Ismailia Operation?"]

[Text] Why this clamor and storm over the Ismailia operation? Why this violent American anger against the Palestinians? Can this operation really abort or paralyze any earnest and real approach to achieve peace? Which peace are the Americans talking about? Are there really any convincing indications affirming the possibility of achieving a just peace in the region?

This American anger and unjust campaign against the Palestinians are an attempt to evade responsibility for the utter failure of the Palestinian, Arab, and international peace initiatives as a result of the Israeli stands. It is a cunning attempt to hold the Palestinians responsible for this failure.

Israel's acts of violence in the occupied territory, the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the establishment of settlements to absorb and settle these immigrants, and Israel's threats against the Arab countries and hints to use force to establish "Greater Israel" are—in the American viewpoint—natural and do not affect the peace efforts.

The Palestinian people gave tens of thousands of martyrs at the hands of the Israeli terrorists and the occupation forces; and Israel expelled thousands of Arab citizens. The U.S. administrations did not become angry, nor did they say Israeli terrorism obstructed the peace process. In fact, we are aware of the U.S. conspiratorial role of putting pressure on the USSR to allow the Jews to emigrate to Israel, in fact, in concluding a deal with the USSR to this effect.

The Ismailia operation is an angry reaction to Israel's repressive measures against the Arab citizens and its refusal to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people; it is a reaction to the emigration of thousands of

Soviet Jews and to the efforts to settle them in the place of the Palestinians on the land of Palestine.

Does the U.S. Administration look at this operation and other possible operations fairly and search for their reasons and motives before launching such an unjust campaign against the Palestinians? Will the U.S. Administration, for once at least, admit the truth regarding the fascist violence against the Palestinians in the occupied territory?

Israel Must Take Blame

JN0802085290 Amman THE STAR in English 8-14 Feb 90 p 12

["Our Say" column: "Violence Breeds Violence"]

[Text] While we share the rest of the world in condemning the attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt this week as an act of violence that does not serve the cause of peace in the region, we believe that these condemnation should fall on Israel and not only on the persons who carried out the attack.

We say this as we are reminded of the daily atrocities incurred by innocent Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

We see the more than one thousand victims of Israeli oppression who were killed during the three years of intifada as not different from the tourists who were killed by terrorists.

The Israeli reaction therefore should not be one of wrath and anger and vindictiveness, but of finally coming to terms with the facts that will continue to distinguish this region and the people who live in it. Violence can only breed more violence and the use of firearms and grenades is not a monopoly of Israeli settlers and zealous Israeli soldiers. Radicalism in Israel's leadership can only give incentive to radicalism in the Arab world to grow and prosper. In the end moderation will lose ground and the possibility of bloody confrontations will become a daily terror.

We in the Arab world see the current efforts to bring about a peaceful conclusion to the four decades of Arab-Israeli conflict fizzling away leaving in their place only despair and hopelessness.

What the world must understand is that fundamentalism and radicalism are not features which are unique to the Arab world. We have seen examples of Zionist bigotry in the actions of Gen. Sharon, Rabbi Kahane and Moshe Levenger. We have seen Arab children being shot in the head by hateful Israeli soldiers who are not sure of their mission in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

His Majesty King Husyan has warned recently of the dangers that lie ahead. In his view the real danger lies in Israel's active absorption of thousands of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab areas. Again His Majesty has warned against the threat of Israel executing its design of "Jordan is Palestine" or "The Jordanian Option". These actions can only suffocate the last chance of peace in the area.

With current Israeli actions and the fizzling out of peaceful efforts one can only expect a rise in radicalism on both sides to the conflict. This tense situation cannot last forever and while there is political relaxation in Europe and between the two super powers the Middle East is the only area where the causes of destabilisation are becoming numerous leaving no other possibility but bloody confrontations.

Again we condemn the attack on innocent civilians, but we see the real danger lying behind such acts of terror on both sides. We warn against them it and hope the moderates on the opposing sides will act before it is too late.

Arab Deaths Ignored

JN0702133090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Blood Knows No Colours"]

[Text] The attack on the Israeli bus in Egypt on Sunday drew mixed reactions ranging from outright condemnation and repudiation of its rationale to utter praise and justification. The fairest of these reaction is, however, the one which calls for equal treatment between the killing of civilian Arabs, notable Palestinians, and the killing of Israeli civilians. When the international community and above all Israel itself starts to condemn the killing of civilian Arabs, whether in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or elsewhere in the Arab World, and begins to take effective measures to stop such killings, then and only then the Israelis can be entitled to sympathy and understanding of the entire world, including the Arab countries. As things stand now, the killing of Palestinians go on on a daily basis without ever hearing any effective voice from the Israeli establishment criticising such slaughter much less condemning them. And as long as Israel maintains its faithful adherence to its prejudiced and ridiculous standard of paying no attention to Arab blood spilled by its military machine, and goes on equating one Israeli civilian casualty with scores of Arab civilian casualties, then it cannot possibly expect to earn the sympathy of the Arab side or ever ask Arab tears to be shed whenever one or 10 Israeli civilians get killed.

Admittedly the killing of Israeli civilians will play very well into the hands of Israeli extremism, notably among the Likud constituency, and raise in the process very formidable obstacles in the path of the fragile peace process. But the same can be said for the Arab side as well. Whenever Palestinians get killed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while waging their basically peaceful intifada, the forces of extremism on the Arab side will also enjoy a field day and they in turn end up forging an impregnable obstacle to the projected process of dialogue and negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Seen against this backdrop the real villains behind

the killing of Israeli civilians, whether in a bus or walking down the streets of Jerusalem or Palestinians simply aspiring for recognition and negotiations with Tel Aviv, are those Israeli forces which have frustrated one peace process after the other.

This is not to suggest that anyone would want to encourage or promote the continuation of the killing of civilians whether Israelis or Palestinians. Far from such a posture, it is rather the call for equal treatment for Palestinian civilians who go on getting murdered every day without as much as causing a wink among many Israeli hardliners or much concern among the traditional friends and allies of Tel Aviv. Now is therefore time for the international community to stand up in mass [as published] and call for an effective halt to the killings on both sides and the beginning of genuine negotiations with the explicit purpose of achieving real peace between them where cooperation and friendship would reign supreme.

King Husayn Leaves on 'Working Visit' to Iraq

JN0802114090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for Baghdad on a short working visit to Iraq during which he will meet with Iraqi President Mr. Saddam Husayn. His majesty the king was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the political adviser to his majesty the king, the chief chamberlain, and a number of top civic and military officials.

His majesty the king is accompanied by the Chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir.

Commentary on Soviet Jewish Emigration Continues

U.S., Soviet Positions Criticized

JN0702091890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Feb 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Soviet Immigrants and U.S. Funds"]

[Text] If media reports that the U.S. Congress is planning to propose urgent aid to Israel amounting to $1 billion to help Soviet Jews settle in the occupied Palestinian territories are true, we will witness another dramatic and dangerous chapter in the issue of Jewish immigration.

We also will witness the overt cooperation and coordinated efforts between the two superpowers against the interests of a small unarmed nation threatened with displacement and expulsion from its land for the third time in only four decades.

In fact, we will not be surprised if the congressmen make such a proposal, which would constitute direct, vital support for the process of absorbing the immigrant Jews. Neither would we be surprised if both Houses of Congress quickly approve such a proposal, which constitutes flagrant aggression against the Palestinian people's rights, especially since we know in advance the tendencies of the high-level U.S. politicians and the continued bias of the lawmen in Washington toward the interests of Israel, which enjoys traditional and large-scale influence with U.S. senators and representatives.

What is surprising is the United States is the international party most active in advancing the stumbling peace efforts in the region and also the side most determined to destroy the peace process, not yet started, by its complete political cover of Israel's continued crimes and violations and by allocating great amounts of money and grants to enable thousands of Soviet Jews to settle in the occupied Palestinian territories.

We hence are not surprised by the proposal by Israel's friends in Congress to support this issue, especially since they witnessed how the U.S. Administration has retreated from considering the Jewish settlements illegal actions, how they viewed these settlements as only an obstacle to the peace efforts, and how they finally considered the settlements mere actions that do not help achieve peace. The U.S. Administration has been using peace as a maneuver before the eyes of world nations and to hint to the Arabs that U.S. efforts were under way to get its strategic ally to respond to the international community's will and the UN resolutions.

As we witness today the Soviet Union opening its doors for the Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine, and as the United States uses its money and influence to support the absorption of this large number of new immigrants, we urge the Arabs to deal with these concerted efforts, which entail very serious danger, by taking effective action rather than appealing and sending joint delegations to the capitals involved in the issue, because no one will hear the voice of the weak, and no one will not take seriously his words.

As we face this serious, sudden danger threatening the entire Arab East, we reiterate His Majesty King Husayn's call for convening an urgent Arab summit to study the dangers of the Jewish immigration, adopt the necessary measures to unify vision, ranks, and will, change the language of appeal, and amend the logic of one option to which we have been adhering for years. Only this way can we get the world to listen to our voice and get others to give our positions the attention they deserve.

Columnist on Confronting Issue

JN0702101890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 14

["Spotlight" column: "Language That the Zionist Immigrants Understand" by Ibrahim al-'Absi]

[Text] It is obvious the Soviet Union will not revoke its decision "to allow" the new Zionists to emigrate to occupied Palestine, as stated by Shevardnadze the day before yesterday.

It is also certain the Arab condemnation campaign, in reality, will not change anything on the ground, and neither will it stop or dissuade any Zionist from emigrating. What is left for us, as Arabs, now that we are witnessing this new racist onslaught on our occupied land—an onslaught which threatens to eradicate the Palestinian presence and establish "Greater Israel"?

As the issue no longer is in the Soviet Union's hands due to U.S. pressures and the Soviet Union bowing to them, I believe the Arabs should launch a carefully prepared comprehensive media campaign directed to the immigrants themselves to warn them against immigrating and settling in other people's land, and to remind them this land will not be "a safe oasis" as Israel's generals portray to them. The Arab weakness will not last long, considering the Arab peoples' uprising and their aspirations for democracy.

These peoples soon will control their own destinies and define their political and military future, because their situation is deteriorating and is dominated by the Zionists and Americans.

Only then will these new Zionists, who have come to and settled in Palestine, realize they are involved in an ethnic battle of survival with the Palestinians and the Arabs, and that they are to be used as "fuel for the guns", as "Natore Qarta" [an Israeli extremist group] put it.

This may not be achieved in the foreseeable future because of current Arab impotence, but it will not remain out of reach for long, after the Arab peoples have their say in the battle of survival and pan-Arab confrontation of the Zionists, all the Zionists.

Ministry Stops Issuing Permits to New Workers

JN0802080090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Labor Ministry in Amman has decided to stop issuing work permits starting tomorrow for workers who arrive there, of various nationalities, for all sectors and employment in all the Kingdom's governorates and districts until further notice.

The ministry also tasked inspection teams from all employment offices in the Kingdom with carrying out intensive campaigns, referring all violators to the judicial authorities. Work inspectors will continue to adopt legal measures against all violators until they abide by the provisions of the law.

This measure is in implementation of the government's policy, which aims at curbing the problem of unemployment, and the plan for organizing the Jordanian labor market, to make jobs available for Jordanian jobseekers.

Cease-Fire Violations Continue 7 Feb

NC0702202790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Violations of the cease-fire continued tonight. 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, and the fringes of al-Ashrafiyah have been coming under shellfire since early in the evening. Skirmishes with light- and medium-caliber machineguns have also been reported.

LF Claim Adherence to Agreement

NC0702155990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1524 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the 5th Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff]

[Text] A state of guarded calm currently prevails on all fronts, except for intermittent shelling of areas under the control of the Lebanese Forces [LF]. These violations have been reported to the security committee so that it can deal with them. The LF General Staff would like to note that all its troops are still abiding by the cease-fire agreement.

'Awn Forces Tighten Control

NC0702181590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] As the joint security committee was meeting today amid a declared truce, 'Awn radio reported that army units have tightened their control over the Lebanese Forces positions in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and are steadily advancing toward them, as the radio put it. Apart from the contradiction in saying that the army units have tightened their control over positions toward which they are steadily advancing, this report is untrue and reveals the intentions harbored by the party which has always been responsible for the attacks and the violation of the cease-fire decisions.

'Awn's Snipers Open Fire

NC0802104190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's group is directing sniper fire at residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Nahr al-Mawt. A number of citizens have been wounded. Also, seven citizens who were wounded during 'Awn's destructive war against the Christians in the eastern area died today.

General 'Awn Holds News Conference 7 Feb

NC0702161090 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has addressed an open invitation to everyone, including the so-called Lebanese Forces, to join the army. Speaking at a news conference at B'abda this afternoon, Gen 'Awn said: I demand that the [Lebanese] Forces command understand this offer, or else we will continue to fight till the end. He added: The army was compelled to defend its positions against the onslaught by the gunmen of the so-called Lebanese Forces, who were playing the role of a Trojan horse in a bid to implement the al-Ta'if agreement at the instigation of the United States.

Gen. 'Awn accused the Ja'ja' gunmen of executing military prisoners in their custody, adding that the Forces have a long history of crime. He further said that Ja'ja' is a cunning man who deceives the Lebanese people and tries to hide behind federalism so as to not adopt a stand on the al-Ta'if agreement. Gen 'Awn said that the Forces' gunmen hold civilians hostage to protect themselves, and refuse to allow food supplies to reach them. He asserted that the security committee met to deal with some humanitarian issues, and not to discuss the cease-fire. Gen. 'Awn said that the Lebanese Army is united despite all the present conditions.

Sets Conditions To End Fighting

NC0702195590 Paris AFP in English 1928 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 7 (AFP)—Rival Christian forces paused in their battle for the control of East Beirut on Wednesday as General Michel 'Awn laid down conditions to halt the fighting that has claimed at least 311 lives in the past week.

In his first public statement on the hostilities which began January 31, Gen. 'Awn demanded that the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader, Samir Ja'ja', join him in rejecting the Arab League's peace plan for Lebanon, and with it the authority of President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

"If he (Ja'ja') is truly against the al-Ta'if accord, let him say it clearly and the war will stop immediately," Gen. 'Awn said of the agreement signed in October by a majority of Lebanese MPs in the Saudi resort of al-Ta'if.

The general, whose forces overran the LF barracks in al-Dubayyah 12 kilometers (seven miles) north of here on Tuesday, toned down an earlier statement and denied that he wanted to disarm the LF.

The LF nevertheless sealed a tunnel from al-Dubayyah that leads to their stronghold in the Kasrawan district, marking the new frontline north of here, residents of the region said. And Beirut's northern suburb appeared under seige by Gen. 'Awn's forces who drove around in scores of armored cars and gun-mounted vehicles.

Gen. 'Awn said that while he favoured "political freedom and diversity", the weapons of the Christian factions "should be subservient to the same goals".

Reiterating his opposition to the agreement which set the stage for the election of a Lebanese president after a power vacuum of 14 months, but which also failed to provide a timetable for the withdrawal of 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, Gen. 'Awn said: "As long as I'm here, al-Ta'if won't go through. We are the victors, and if the LF don't want to cooperate with us, let them go to hell."

Although the fiercely anti-Syrian LF joined Gen. 'Awn's 15,000 mainly Christian army troops last year in a six-month "war of liberation" to drive Syrian troops out of Lebanon, it later incurred his wrath by failing to follow his lead in rejecting President al-Hirawi.

Mr. Ja'ja' has publicly neither backed nor rejected the al-Ta'if accord, but the LF radio Wednesday began again calling Mr. al-Hirawi "President" in defiance of orders issued last month by Gen. 'Awn. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Criticizes Statements

NC0802120990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Responding to what Michel 'Awn said during his news conference yesterday, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated: We understood from 'Awn's statements yesterday that the war raging in the eastern area is only an expression of a difference in views between him and his adversaries over the al-Ta'if agreement. This is truly alarming.

Dr al-Huss wondered: Why are people being slain and their properties and means of livelihood being destroyed over just a difference in views?

In an interview with QNA, Dr al-Huss added: 'Awn has the right to oppose the al-Ta'if agreement, but is there no way to express this opposition other than the language of war, annihilation, and destruction?

In conclusion, the prime ministser said: Lebanon's tragedy lies in the fact that 'Awn continues to refuse to resort to the logic of political contention within the context of democratic rules. He is still captive of the logic of armed military conflict in which triumph or defeat are the options. He does not believe in a compromise solution. This logic is not in keeping with the concept of coexistence on which the Lebanese homeland is founded. Those who follow 'Awn's logic are trying to do away with this homeland.

'Awn Reportedly Prepares for 'Major Offensives'

NC0802063890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The propaganda campaigns have intensified between the two combatant sides. AFP cited a pro-'Awn source saying that the fighting would end only if the Lebanese Forces surrendered. Meanwhile, AFP reported that 'Awn is mobilizing armored vehicles and commando units to launch major offensives against the Lebanese Forces' positions in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al-Ashrafiyah. Furthermore, 'Awn is massing troops on Beirut's northeastern ridges to lift the siege imposed on the Adma airbase.

Security Committee Meeting Termed 'Positive'

NC0702185590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The joint security committee comprising representatives of the commands of the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army ended its meeting this evening. The meeting lasted more than 6 hours. The committee includes Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik, Major Raymond Sa'adah, and attorney George 'Adwan from the Lebanese Forces and Colonel Munir Bajjani, Colonel Ilyas Khalil, Lieutenant Michel Rahbani, and Lieutenant Michel 'Awwad from the Lebanese Army. Mediation committee members Bishop Khalil Abi-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman also attended the meeting.

The mediation committee this evening visited Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'. The discussions during the meeting, which was described as positive, focused on humanitarian issues. These include facilitating the mission of the Red Cross and tackling some urgent issues, particularly the supply of medicine, water, and essential foodstuffs. It has been learned that contacts will continue and that proposals will be submitted to the commands for their consideration.

Abbot Bulus Nu'man, attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman, and attorney George 'Adwan visited B'abda Palace at 1700 today and met with General 'Awn for 30 minutes, before returning to Nurah Palace in Sinn al-Fil where the committee was meeting.

Informed sources have said that the atmosphere is positive, and that the dialogue between the two parties is taking place in light of the painful reality on the ground. A serious attempt is being made to end the fighting, consolidate the cease-fire, and define the mechanism which must be adopted to achieve these two objectives.

Papal Nuncio on 'Positive Responses' to Cease-Fire

NC0702163090 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente has stated that he has received positive responses to a consolidation of the cease-fire following his mediation between the two parties.

Speaking to AFP by telephone, Puente said that after his telephone conversations with General Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja', he is convinced that the undeclared truce will be respected. He believes that there is a common desire to stop the fighting because otherwise the present military situation will turn into a long-term war (?of positions). The papal nuncio said that the joint military committee, which represents the army and the so-called Lebanese Forces, met at a secret location at noon today to consolidate the cease-fire and lay the foundations for a political agreement.

Ja'ja' Appeals to Pope To End 'Suffering'

NC0802113090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Appeal by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' to Pope John-Paul II, on 8 February—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Holiness, the Lebanese Christians who today are living through the darkest hours of their modern history, address their full gratitude to you for the concern you are showing for Lebanon. We have followed your continuous paternal apppeals and implemented them. However, General 'Awn, who has claimed to be the only authority in the eastern area, has resolved to silence every voice that protests against or rejects his arbitrary decisions.

The Christian resistance, which took up arms 15 years ago to defend the free existence of the Christian people, cannot accept the decision abolishing it just because Gen 'Awn has decided to be the sole custodian of the Lebanese Christians' fate.

Attacks on us have been going on for eight days in a war of extermination. Our people in the shelters are deprived of water and food. They wait for an end to their suffering.

On behalf of the Christians who are being crucified on the altar of personal and individual wishes, on behalf of the children and old people who cower in the corners of houses that are no longer safe, and on behalf of the sick who are deprived of medicine and care, we appeal to your holiness to intensify your efforts to end these painful incidents which can only weaken the Christian ranks.

I have always personally adhered to your urgent calls to halt fighting immediately because I believe that the salvation of the Christian people we have defended for 15 years is our primary objective. For the sake of this objective we have lost 10,000 martyrs.

In this appeal, which has been delayed by the bloody events of the past few days, I beseech you to promptly use all your moral and spiritual powers to end the tragedy of the Christians in Lebanon.

Your Holiness, on behalf of the Lebanese Forces I am honored to command, I ask you to accept my absolute respect.

[Signed] Samir Ja'ja'

PSP Leader Junblatt Deplores 'Mentality of Past'

NC0302231890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] After the Bayt-al-Din Group meeting today, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt was asked to comment on the East Beirut developments, and he said: We deplore what is taking place in East Beirut because innocent citizens are paying the highest price for the struggle between Michel 'Awn's dictatorial and hegemonic plan and the Lebanese Forces' partitionist federal plan. Therefore, anyone who bets on either force is mistaken. We support the army, the whole army, returning to the barracks and ousting Michel 'Awn from the army command. We also support rehabilitating and organizing this army under General Emile Lahhud's command. We should discover sound national bases for army performance and send it to the south.

Junblatt added: The army's first and foremost task is in the south to implement Resolution 425 and to prevent the ongoing settlement there. The primary danger originates in the south. As for the militias, we support the principle of closing all military barracks in the cities and residential areas, the withdrawing militias from the cities, and, in turn, handing over all the militias' arms to the legitimate security forces tasked with internal security duties.

He noted: There is a huge quantity of arms and ammunition in Lebanon. At a time when the major powers are heading toward disarmament and arms reduction in the West, I believe we have no need for all this armament, ammunition, tanks, and artillery in Lebanon. Experience has shown that the terms "the eastern area is a liberated area" and "The sectarian security" are no longer valid. The Lebanese army fell again in the eastern area as it fell yesterday in the western area. The militias' security has also fallen. We want a state, a just system, and a new concept of a state divorced from the sectarian settlements that are being arranged in Arab or foreign capitals every now and then.

Asked if the legitimate Lebanese authorities will get to B'abda Palace after these incidents, Junblatt said: There must be a new concept of the entire situation. As members of this government, we should also develop a new concept of a future Lebanon. If we continue to uphold the mentality of the past through the sectarian settlements, we in the al-Hirawi government may fail our mission.

Asked whether the East Beirut fighting between the Army and the Lebanese Forces will eventually be in the interest of perpetuating legitimacy in Lebanon, he wondered: Which legitimacy? The legitimacy's instruments, are the internal security forces and the army. We say no to the army's involvement in internal security. This army was spoiled when it took to the streets in the days of Fu'ad Shihab [former Lebanese president]. The army is only for the south, and its strength is to be decided there. We are for rehabilitating and organizing the internal security forces. If they want a security plan for Beirut in the presence of the current internal security forces under the ill-reputed and suspect Makhzumi [internal security forces chief], no such security plan would succeed, either in West Beirut or anywhere else.

If some are wagering on Samir Ja'ja' to triumph, then this will mean we have become part of the federation

plan. To start with, Ja'ja' has not explained the federation story. To Ja'ja', federation means partition; in other words, Ja'ja' is to take charge of B'abda, not Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Asked about what would happen were the Lebanese Forces to reach Suq al-Gharb, he said: What will change if they do reach Suq al-Gharb? We support establishing a clear and definite legitimacy, the legitimacy of al-Hirawi and our government, but it must be according to a new concept and not until we get rid of the present psychological complexes of some of the cabinet ministers or other officials. It is not logical to get involved in ephemeral squabbles in the Council of Ministers while debating the appointment of a certain official to a post.

Al-Khazin Appeals to Fighters in Eastern Area

NC0202203890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Ilyas al-Khazin, minister of interior and acting defense minister, this evening addressed an appeal to the fighters in the eastern area. He called on them to stop the acts of violence and to cease tampering with the lives of innocent people who have nothing to do with what is going on there. He strongly denounced the disasters befalling the citizens. He asserted that what is taking place is the best proof that there is no alternative to legitimacy, stating that legitimacy is the only savior and guarantor of all the Lebanese in all areas and wherever they are.

Minister Rizq Appeals to Army, Sfayr on Fighting

NC0202194090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] At a news conference today, Information Minister Edmond Rizq called on Lebanese Army officers, soldiers, and noncommissioned officers to remember their military oath and preserve the honor of the threatened military establishment. He said that the government places all its resources at the disposal of the people, who are suffering from a bitter situation. He stressed that the legitimate government alone is the appropriate framework for all parties to resolve all problems.

Rizq called on Patriarch Sfayr to take a decisive stand commensurate with national history and faith. He said: We address ourselves to the people and say that the situation in the eastern area is an inevitable result of the absence of the legitimate authority. It is also the result of the fact that the area is in the grip of irresponsible individuals, who have absolutely no legitimate representative status. He said that the eastern area is in the hands of persons who usurped power and control public institutions by force, blackmail, deception of the people, and exploitation of their emotions. He added: They are creating fear among the people [words indistinct]. We address those who want to understand and we hope that they will understand that all the slogans raised have now fallen. It was not we who caused these slogans to collapse, but rather those who raised them. No one is threatening the security of the eastern area except those persons. It has become clear that no one has attacked the eastern area from outside. The eastern area has nothing to fear except the mentality of those who still dominate public opinion and guide those individuals under their control on the ground.

Al-Hirawi Postpones Arab Tour Amidst Violence

NC0702182090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has postponed his scheduled visits to the capitals of the tripartite Arab committee member states to follow the deteriorating situation in the eastern area, put an end to the cycle of violence there, and find a way to impose legitimacy there. Instead, al-Hirawi reportedly decided to hold bilateral contacts on the sidelines of the Arab summit conference, if one is held.

Hizballah Claims Amal, Hubayqah Group Attacks

NC0802090090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] A Hizballah media source announced that Nabih Birri's Amal groups and the group of Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] are continuing their aggression against Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. The source said that at 1000 yesterday, these forces began violently bombarding Jurnaya Hill with 120-mm shells. At 1005, 120-mm shells fell in Jba' township and on Jurnaya hill. Shelling in these areas continued sporadically until 1400 when suddenly it became more intense. The Birri and Hubayqah groups directed heavy artillery fire, Grad rockets, and tank fire at Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Islamic Resistance positions in Mlita and Jabal Safi from their positions in 'Anqun and 'Arab al-Jall.

The source concluded the announcement saying: We hold Birri's Amal groups and Elie Hubayqah's group responsible for the continued tension in the area and for the citizens' inability to return to their homes.

Defense Minister, French Envoy Return From Paris

NC0602181090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur and French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala returned to Beirut from Paris this afternoon.

UNIFIL Mandate Renewed for 6 Months

NC0102072690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The UN Security Council yesterday renewed the mandate of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] for 6 months as of today.

Presidential Envoy Cited on Washington Talks

PM2501142890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Deputy Butrus Harb, special envoy of President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the United States, by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Sadiq] You have completed your contacts and talks with U.S. State Department and National Security Council officials and some congressmen. After these talks, how do you assess the U.S. position on the Lebanese crisis and efforts to resolve it, and what have you achieved as far as facilitating a solution is concerned?

[Harb] First of all, the purpose of my visit was to explore the U.S. position, put the U.S. Administration in the picture about what is happening in Lebanon, and find ways of cooperation between the Lebanese Government and the U.S. Government that would help in ending the Lebanese crisis by translating U.S. statements and words into a plan of action and practical steps.

In the talks which I held with the U.S. Government and Congress as President Al-Hirawi's personal envoy, I discovered that there is agreement of views between the two governments and that the U.S. position is consistent in its support for the legitimate Lebanese Government and President Al-Hirawi. I also discovered that the administration is committed to helping in the implementation of all aspects of al-Ta'if agreement, particularly the two main points, which are: restructuring of the state through constitutional reforms and, second, drawing up a security plan and making arrangements for the gradual withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies from Lebanon and restoration of national sovereignty.

We exchanged views on possible means of bilateral cooperation, as well as cooperation with our friends in the world to create a better atmosphere for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and to end the abnormal situation in the eastern area.

I believe that the U.S. position will be transformed from a position of diplomatic support to one of practical support through the steps the U.S. Government may take to assist and support the legitimate authority in Lebanon.

[Sadiq] Could you elaborate on the practical steps you mentioned?

[Harb] It would not be appropriate for me to divulge these steps. That is up to the U.S. Administration. Even if they are not announced, we would still see the results on the ground.

[Sadiq] Will it be long before we see these steps taken on the ground? As you know, events are moving very fast.

[Harb] What has been agreed on is not a single step or a single action but a number of actions that will appear successively. I believe that the U.S. Government has begun contacts with the aim of translating what has been agreed upon into a practical reality.

[Sadiq] Do the steps you speak of include the United States' equipping, training, and rebuilding the Lebanese Army under the command of General Emile Lahhud, the new Army commander, which is what the Lebanese Government has been calling for and which was one of the aims of the visit by Lebanese Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil, which coincided with your visit?

[Harb] The rebuilding of the Lebanese Army is the responsibility of the Lebanese Government with the help of whatever aid we may get from the friendly states. I did not discuss this matter directly with U.S. officials because that was not part of my mission. However, I can say with certainty that the United States is not divorced from the realm of diplomatic and other direct and indirect assistance to the Lebanese Government to ensure a speedy rebuilding of the Army under Gen Emile Lahhud's command. [passage omitted]

Damascus Radio Cites AFP on Bus Attack

JN0702185090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Ismailia—A number of Israeli tourists were killed and injured this evening in an armed attack on the bus which was boarding them near the Egyptian city of Ismailia. AGENCE-FRANCE PRESS said in an urgent report from Jerusalem that Israeli radio disclosed the attack and injuries. AFP cited well-informed sources as saying the number killed totaled 10, while more than 30 were injured.

Further Report on Attack

JN0702191090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo—Ten Israeli tourists were killed and 15 others injured in an armed attack yesterday evening on a bus holding 31 Israeli tourists near the Egyptian city of Ismailia.

REUTER quoted the manager of the Heliopolis Hospital in Cairo, Samir Sultan, as saying 10 people were killed, some of them at the scene of the accident. Egyptian police said hand grenades and machine guns were used in the attack on the bus, which was on its way from Ismailia to Cairo.

Shim'on Shamir, ambassador of the Zionist entity in Cairo, has confirmed the accident. He said he knows a private car intercepted the bus, which was boarding the Israeli tourists, and opened fire from inside the car and tossed hand grenades at it.

Leaders Reportedly Allow New Political Parties

JN0702211590 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 4 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Damascus, AL-WATAN—Informed Syrian sources have said that the Syrian leadership has allowed the launching of a number of new political parties.

The authorities have so far allowed a Nasirist group to form a new party led by Lieutenant General Sufi. Besides, another party representing moderate Islamic trends will be allowed to operate in Syria.

These changes came about in the wake of joint meetings held by the Syrian leaders and representatives of the National Progressive Front, which is made up of parties that share responsibilities with the ruling party. These meetings were held to discuss successive international developments, the effects of East European developments on the Arab region, and current Syrian developments.

Commentaries View Emigration of Soviet Jews

TISHRIN Blames Moscow

JN0702124290 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] Moscow—SANA correspondent—The USSR has held Israel responsible for raising more obstacles to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Vadim Perfilyev, press spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, announced at a news conference yesterday that Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister, yesterday summoned Mr. Levin, head of the Israeli consular team in Moscow, and told him that the unusual stand taken by the Israeli leaders, including Yitzhaq Shamir, is giving the impression that they are purposely raising obstacles to the peace process.

Vorontsov added that this is clearly evident from Shamir's statements about the need to maintain Israel's occupation of the Arab territories to settle new immigrants, including Soviet Jews.

The first deputy foreign minister said that the Tel Aviv rulers are reiterating that annexing Arab territories and rejecting compromise solutions to the Middle East conflict is part of their policy to create a fait accompli and carry out expansionist projects aimed at establishing Greater Israel at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people.

Vorontsov explained that through this action, the Tel Aviv rulers also seek to open a new front against the intifadah by creating a conflict between the interests of the Palestinians and the new immigrants.

The Soviet official pointed out that by entrenching its occupation of the Arab territories, Israel is defying the United Nations, which has often emphasized that the demographic nature of these territories cannot be changed in any way. Therefore, this Israeli action is seen as a blatant violation of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibits settlement in any occupied territories other than by the indigenous population.

During his talk with the head of the Israeli consular team in Moscow, Vorontsov expressed his country's concern over these Israeli steps which, he said, constitute a new blow to the peace efforts and could endanger the security of all the countries in the region.

Vorontsov added: What causes our concern also is that some of the Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel have fallen victim to dishonest propaganda and have become an instrument for carrying out illegal schemes strongly condemned by the whole world.

Vorontsov asserted that the USSR is firmly against using Soviet Jewish immigrants as a means to expel the Palestinian Arabs from their lands. The Tel Aviv rulers must understand the gravity of their actions, he said.

Emigration Called 'Crime'

JN0702134890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: This week's issue of AL-TALA'I' magazine, mouthpiece of the al-Sa'iqah Organization and the PLO, was issued in Damascus today with a front-page editorial headlined "Emigration of Jews or Eviction of Arabs." In this editorial, AL-TALA'I' says: Yitzhaq Shamir's words are as clear as the epidemic, pollution, and annhilation. He said an intensified Jewish emigration requires a Greater Israel; that is, the annihilation or eviction of the Palestinian Arab people and perhaps other Arabs.

Regardless of Yitzhaq Shamir's absurdity, delusions, and demagoguery, the matter requires a specific stance. It requires the entire world to stand at the UN rostrum and say no to Jewish emigration. The matter also requires a UN Security Council resolution preventing Jewish emigration, specifically to Palestine, though allowing it to any other place in the world.

We are saying this while we are aware of many facts related to any emigration be it Jewish or non-Jewish. We, for example, know that emigration is a demographic movement that has its various legitimate reasons such as escape from famine, hardship, or oppression, or search for a better future even if there was no hardship, famine, or oppression. We know that traveling from one country to another is a human right. We also know that there are many countries which need inhabitants because they are vast uncultivated areas that require human exploitation. We know that there are countries which encourage the advent of immigrants and even provide facilities for them. If they set any condition, it would be to ask the immigrant to bring with him a sum of money that can be used in investment or in supporting its owner for some time, as is the case with Canada for example.

Those who receive immigrants assume in advance that the immigrant will become a good citizen in his new homeland and will not undertake any action that would threaten the territorial integrity or jeopardize the national security of his new homeland. Accordingly, we object to the emigration of any Jew from any country to the state of Queensland in Australia or to the province of Manitoba in Canada for example. But the matter will be quite different when it comes to Palestine because it is not Arab Palestine which is inviting immigrants as Canada and Australia, for instance, are doing. Canada and Australia have vast areas which need people although Canada will continue to be Canada and Australia will continue to be Australia even if millions of immigrants poured into them from various countries. As for Palestine, the situation is different. Palestine is not an empty continent like Australia or thinly populated like Canada. The area of Palestine is only 25,000 square kilometers. This area is sufficient only for its people and it does not need immigrants. Moreover, Palestine as a land cannot now speak because it is strangulated by an alien body called Israel. Jewish emigration to Palestine is not like Jewish emigration to Canada or the United States; that is, it is not an emigration to a homeland that is fortified against any call for its cancellation or fragmentation of its territorial integrity or destruction of its social life and national security.

The Jewish emigration to Palestine is a conquest and invasion as well as a displacement of a people and a cancellation of a homeland through political, ideological, racist, and military willfulness supported by world colonialist and racist forces that were upset to see in this world an enlightened, ethical, noble, refined, civilized, and brave nation that serves itself and humanity. By this we mean the Arab nation. The definition of emigration may apply to any world emigration except the Jewish emigration to Arab Palestine. Consequently, the Jewish emigration to Arab Palestine is an assassination of humanity which evolved from the law of the jungle to the bill of human rights. No description can be applied to the Jewish emigration to Arab Palestine except that which specifies it as the crime of annihilating the human race—a crime for which the Nuremberg court convened 45 years ago.

Accordingly, we urge the Arab nation and its official and popular institutions to include a permanent two-part clause in the agenda of the UN General Assembly. The first part defines the meaning of emigration and the second defines the extent the meaning of emigration—as defined by sociologists—applies to Jewish emigration to Palestine. The world should then take a binding decision that cancels Jewish emigration, not to any place but specifically to Palestine, because the Jewish emigration in this case would not be emigration but a crime against the human race.

Action Against Emigration Urged

JN0802072690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Evacuation and the Immigration", AL-THAWRAH says: The Zionist movement has decided to vacate the occupied West Bank and Gaza of their Arab inhabitants by means of murder, destruction, and deportation. These Arabs will be replaced by a group of people that denied their genuine affiliation with the nations among which they lived. On some occasions, these people established relations with the nations in which they lived; on others, they plotted against them; and yet on others, they held the citizenship of these nations. In return for settlement, these people have linked their future to terrorism, murder, and drug and arms smuggling. AL-THAWRAH adds: The Arab nation is required to move swiftly and within effective solidarity to face up to the game of evacuation and immigration. In doing so, the Arab nation will be

defending its existence against a scheme that has been winding its fatal lines around the Arab neck since the early seventies.

Fund Raising Criticized

JN0802074290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the way of revolution and liberation: In various places in the world Jewish communities are not ashamed to collect donations to finance Jewish immigration to Palestine. These communities and their Zionist organizations are also not ashamed to demand that some states extend financial aid to cover the expenses of immigration and settlement. They are doing this despite all that was said about their embarrassment over the brutal crimes Israel continues to commit against the Arabs in the occupied territories. How much more would they have done had those crimes not been so vivid in the minds of international public opinion and/or had those organizations and communities not been embarrassed by these crimes and by Israel's rejection of peace?

World Zionism is nowadays recording the ugliest chapters in its history. While committing its crimes, it stands as witness to what Hitler's Israeli heirs are doing to defenseless Arabs. Nevertheless, it seeks to create new murderers and killers and to find new victims.

Zionists, who are raising funds to continue this crime, will inevitably be stigmatized with brutality, not to mention that first and foremost they are negating Moses' ten commandments. As for the Zionist intruders, who insist on continuing to usurp the Arab land and rights, they have opted for the worst present and a worse future. This is because the Arab nation, which has never neglected its rights in the past or present, will not neglect them in the future either.

Minister on Trade Surplus, Export Policy Success

JN0502204290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, has said the value of the country's exports during the past year has exceeded that of imports by 10.4291 billion Syrian pounds.

Dr. al-'Imadi said in a statement to SANA that 1989 was the year of exports in terms of Syria's trade balance, because until 31 December, 1989, the country's exports to foreign markets totalled 33.7395 billion Syrian pounds, whereas the country's imports of requirements for agricultural and industrial production, in addition to various food and commodity needs, during the past year totalled 23.3104 billion Syrian pounds.

Dr. al-'Imadi explained an analysis of the export and import figures by the sector would reveal the public sector exported commodities and industrial products in 1989 worth 17.5501 billion Syrian pounds, and that the private sector exported commodities and local products worth 16.1894 billion Syrian pounds.

The minister of economy and foreign trade stated the value of the country's crude oil exports during the past year amounted to 9.1398 billion Syrian pounds, while imports of commodities and agricultural and industrial products totaled 24.5997 billion Syrian pounds.

Dr. al-'Imadi added: The figures I have mentioned demonstrate some new basic facts: First, the country's export policy has reached a major turning point in exporting commodities and agricultural and industrial products. Second, exports have outpaced imports, production is increasing and its quality is improving, and a great deal of foreign trade by the public sector has shifted industry from import to export activities. Third, public sector activities have increased in the area of exports. Fourth, the repayment of the countries' quotas—the agreement of payments of these exports [as heard] amounts to 13.4343 billion Syrian pounds.

Dr. al-'Imadi concluded his statement by saying Syria's most important exports to foreign markets have included: Oil and oil byproducts, cotton, textiles, clothing, leather goods, sheep, lintels, vegetables and fruits, perfumes, plastic material, phosphates, processed food stuffs, and a number of handcrafts.

He asserted the export policy—a result of the government's endeavors in the area of foreign trade—has achieved this important transformation, and become capable, in future years, to develop and adopt the continuation of balances as the major principle for strengthening and solidifying the national economy and deepening the self-reliance strategy.

Article Extols Relations With USSR

JN0602190090 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 30 Jan 1990 p 3

[Article by B. Mansur under the headline: "Syrian—USSR Relations of Friendship and Cooperation, Strong and Deep"]

[Text] A few months ago, some Western mass media tried to sabotage Syrian-Soviet relations of friendship, but these attempts were soon doomed to failure when Mr. Zotov, the USSR Ambassador to Syria, denied the fabrications and allegations made by the Western mass media. At a press conference, which Mr. Zotov held at the USSR Embassy in Damascus he emphasized the Syrian-Soviet strong relations of friendship. He also sharply criticized the Western mass media for their attempts to harm these relations. Mr. Zotov also stressed the continuation of military cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union. This was proved by the recent visit paid by the USSR Minister of Defence, Mr. Dimitriy Yazov, to Damascus.

It is hard to imagine that the 46-year old Syrian-Soviet relations of friendship can be shaken or weakened. The roots of this friendship have gone very deep in modern history, so much so that no political storms can uproot it now. The Syrian-Soviet relations nowadays are a good example to be followed. The Syrian-Soviet friendship is a pattern of fruitful cooperation, mutual respect and benefit and of common aspiration for realizing a world free from mass annihilation weapons, a world where peace and security prevail.

The 46-year old Syrian-Soviet friendship has so far survived all kinds of tests; political, economic and scientific. It is now immune to sabotage, no matter how fierce the imperialist media are.

Relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union have so far passed through several stages. The Syrian-USSR diplomatic relations first started in 1944. Since then and up to 1963 these relations were being constituted and were being shaped out. During this period the USSR supplied Syria with arms. In 1957 the agreement of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries was signed. In 1962 cultural cooperation commenced. Since the March 8, 1963 Revolution and up to date, the pace of progress of Syrian-Soviet friendship has been accelerated and stepped up. During this period, major economic achievements were realized. These included 52 projects and 23 other projects which are being carried out.

The huge economic plants which have so far been carried out, namely the Euphrates Dam, the harbour of Lattakia and the oilfields in Rumaylah to name but a few, are now considered outstanding landmarks in the development of Syrian-USSR true friendship.

In the communique issued on 26 April 1987 at the conclusion of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union, it was stressed that the growing economic, trade and scientific cooperation between the two countries are of fruitful nature. They contribute to developing the two economies and help solve the economic problems faced by the two states.

The relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR adopted a new attitude, deeper and more comprehensive, ever since the Correctionist Movement was launched by President al-Asad on 16 November 1970.

The Syrian-USSR relations of friendship and cooperation were further developed when President al-Asad made his historic visit to Moscow in October 1980 to sign, with the Soviet leadership, the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which outlined the Syrian-Soviet cooperation in the political, economic, military, scientific, technical and cultural fields. The two parties to the Treaty also stressed their desire to see an enhanced world of peace, peoples security and world detente.

Syrian-Soviet cooperation has grown and developed to reach outer space, when a Syrian astronaut, Muhammed Faris, flew in outer space with a Soviet crew in 1987.

The Syrian leadership has highly valued the initiatives and proposals made by the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, to deepen and further enhance and strenghten world detente and accord to let a new era of understanding and dialogue prevail to help solve the world problems and those issued related to disarmament and halting the militarization process of outer space.

The Soviet Union has always stood by and supported the Arabs in their just struggle against the settler Israeli occupation. The USSR helped Syria establish her Army and strengthen it in the 1950s. Moscow also backed the Arabs in the Israeli aggression on them in June 1967; so did, Moscow support the Arabs repel the Israeli aggression in October 1973. [sentence as published]

In the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council, the Soviet Union has always been a strong defender of Arab rights, foremost of which being the Arab cause of Palestine, and the Palestinians right to self-determination, expatriation and the establishment of their own state on the soil of Palestine.

The Soviet Union has also supported Syria's desire for holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Soviet mass media have always and on every occasion said that Syria is today in the forefront of the march to safeguard the Arab people's dignity and independence.

Syria today, under the leadership of President al-Asad, enjoys an excellent reputation in the world for her steadfast and unswerving stand against Israel and its imperialist backers.

Syria's stances based on principle have placed her in a pioneering position among the militant nations fighting for liberty, peace and progress in the world.

Afghanistan

Seven Injured in 7 Feb Missile Attack on Kabul

LD0702161690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Seven people were injured today as a result of two cluster type U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles which were launched by extremists against residential areas in Kabul. The military section of Bakhtar International Agency reports that the injured were rushed to hospital and are under treatment. Their health is improving. The scattered mines resulting from the impact of the missiles were speedily neutralized by security personnel.

Keshtmand Holds Kabul News Conference 2 Feb

LD0502204490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 4 Feb 90

[News conference held by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Council of Ministers Executive Committee chairman, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center in Kabul on 2 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Keshtmand] Esteemed journalists, on behalf of the government and the people of Afghanistan allow me to welcome you to Kabul, the capital of the Republic of Afghanistan. This news conference is being held at a time when one year has elapsed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from the Republic of Afghanistan and the our independent defense of the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. [passage omitted]

At present, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in parallel with strengthening the state sector, attaches very serious importance to the growth of the private sector which constitutes more than 80 percent of the national economy of our country. In the area of private investment, domestic and foreign, the obstacles which existed have been eliminated to a large extent and presently the possibilities are at hand for 100 percent foreign investment in Afghanistan. We believe with the cessation of war and the maintenance of peace in the country, extensive areas and possibilities for social and economic growth and development in our country will appear considering the fact that our country is rich in underground resources, agricultural lands and great water and human resources. Through utilizing all these possibilities, the creation of mixed economic institutions and the participation of the Afghan sector in the national economy's private sector, as well as the attraction of foreign investment, we believe that the speedy development of the country will be provided for.

At the end of this introduction, I would like to state that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is at present not only realizing the plans of social and economic growth, bringing about the growth of the country's national economy, but is also developed a specific program for the revival and reconstruction of the country until the year 2000.

[Moderator] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee of the Republic of Afghanistan: A number of journalists submitted their written questions to our office. Since our conference today is devoted primarily to economic questions, and is particularly concerned with shedding light on the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan's stand in connection with the existing economic situation in Afghanistan, allow me to put forward their questions.

These questions are from Anthony Wilson, a correspondent of a Canadian magazine: The first question reads: Please state what the average salary of an Afghan citizen is. Also, if you please, inform us about the spread of inflation during the past year and the measures that you have taken towards the U.S. dollar.

[Keshtmand] First, it should be said that this is a very general question, because not all Afghan citizens receive salaries. The majority of Afghan citizens depend on their work and income. Peasants, who constitute the majority of our society, artisans, traders, shopkeepers and other strata of the people, who are engaged in free enterprise, depend on their own income and do not receive payments from the state or from the private sector. However, concerning the state employees and workers, who receive salaries, it should be said that the average monthly salary of a state employee and worker could be estimated at 12,000 to 15,000 afghanis. Our state employees and workers enjoy receiving foodstuffs and other primary goods free of charge through their coupons. If we consider the price of goods or foodstuffs in light of today's market prices, such an estimate could be arrived. It should be stated that some 450,000 families constituting state employees and workers enjoy the right to receive coupons. The figure of 12,000 to 15,000 is stated due to the fluctuation of goods prices. It should also be stated that these families constitute some 15 percent of the country's population and 80 percent of the city population. The average salary of the employees and workers working in the private sector is also around this figure. As stated at the beginning of my answer, those who depend on their own work and income adjust their income in line with the day's prices and needs and thus calculate their expenses.

In connection with the speed of inflation, it should stated that the level of inflation growth during the last year in our country has been about (?20) percent. The government has taken specific measures in connection with the price stability of foreign currency. However, this matter, to a large extent, is not under the control of the state. This is because the market mechanism is in action. Our economy, which in its essence and character depends on the standards and factors of a market economy, is increasingly changing towards a free and open economy. One of the state's measures concerning currency prices is that the state does not go to the market for its currency

expenditure, but maintains the expenditure of the state departments and institutions from its currency revenue. The country's banks have taken ample measures towards selling and purchasing and establishing checking and deposit accounts for foreign currency. Plenty of facilities have been provided in this area.

[Moderator] The second question from the Canadian correspondent is: What was the gross national product of your country last year?

[Keshtmand] The gross national product of our country during the last year was 5,000 billion afghanis.

[Moderator] Third question by the Canadian correspondent is: What percent of the aforementioned figure has been spent on weapons purchase and on army expenditures in the war against the rebels?

[Keshtmand] About 15 percent of the gross national product has been spent on security and defense matters.

[Moderator] Here are questions by a reporter of a Hungarian daily, namely the (?STANDARD):

The first question reads: Please explain the new initiatives of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan for the purpose of bringing peace in the country.

[Keshtmand] It should be said that the greatest initiative of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan is the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. Within the framework of this policy, consistently, numerous initiatives towards maintaining peace and ending the war, and towards the political solution of the question of Afghanistan have been put forwad. Recently esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, again explained at a news conference to domestic and foreign journalists the mechanism of the political solution of the Afghan question. I do not see the need to repeat it. Also, complete readiness exists on our side to hold general elections and accept their results, which could take place under international observation.

[Moderator] The second question by the Hungarian reporter reads: Last week a Supreme Soviet delegation emphasized the necessity of further expansion of interparliamentary relations. Please explain the nature of these interparliamentary relations.

[Keshtmand] The visit of the Supreme Soviet delegation to the Republic of Afghanistan played an important role toward consolidating and expanding cooperation and friendly relations between our countries and peoples. The parliamentary delegation visited our country under new conditions after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union military force, which occurred one year ago. The delegation also saw the life and activity of our people under the conditions of maintaining independence, national sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of the country. In the course of the visit the matter of maintaining and consolidating parliamentary relations between the parliaments of both countries on the basis of cooperation and mutual trust, as well as true equality—not only between the peoples of our two countries—but between members of the whole world community—were discussed and assessed. Members of the parliaments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, while acquainting themselves with the each other's work methods and the results of the USSR Second Congress of the People's Deputies, in connection with the continuation of assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan, got to know each other. The political solution of the question of Afghanistan was a central and fundamental question in the course of talks between members of our two countries parliaments. Also, the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation expressed the sympathy of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the people of that country to the pains suffered by the civilian population of Afghanistan as a result of the heavy weapons fire on the cities. In the course of the Soviet parliamentary delegation's visit, the question of consolidating the interparliamentary relations between the parliaments of both countries was comprehensively discussed on the basis of the continuating mutual cooperation between both countries' people and governments.

[Moderator] The third question by the Hungarian reporter reads: What measures will your country take towards the release of the Soviet war prisoners who are held captive by your opponents?

[Keshtmand] We deeply appreciate the concern of the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people concerning the captivity of the Soviet prisoners of war in the hands of the Afghan armed opposition. We will utilize all possibilities towards finding and returning them.

[Moderator] Here is a question by a correspondent from ITN Television in Britain: How do you assess the food and fuel situation in Kabul in comparison to last year?

[Keshtmand] The food and fuel situation is better this year. The government is primarily dutybound to transfer food to coupon holders in Kabul, which includes more than 230,000 families. Also, the government considers it its duty to supply fuel to Kabul citizens, state departments and establishments, and Armed Forces personnel to ensure that they receive food and fuel. The government took steps to store food and fuel for this winter. During the past 10 months of the current Afghan year more than 500,000 tonnes of goods, which consists primarily of food and fuel, have been transported from Hayratan to Kabul. Of course, the figures for transporting goods to other provinces are not included in this.

[Moderator] Another question from the ITN correspondent: In your view, has the support of the people of Afghanistan to the mujahidin increased or decreased since last year?

[Keshtmand] Of course, the support given by the people to the armed opposition groups and forces has decreased. On the contrary, the peoples hatred and indignation stemming from the actions of the armed opposition, which are becoming ever more terroristic and destructive, has increased. On the other hand, the national

reconciliation policy has opened its path among our people. A large number of people, armed groups of the opposition, and commanders inside the country are turning more to state power.

[Moderator] Another question by the same journalists: Is there any evidence or any document based on which one can expect an end to the war?

[Keshtmand] Evidence is the tendency [words indistinct] and acceptance of the national reconciliation policy. We hope that next week's talks between Eduard Shevardnaze and Baker in Moscow will contribute to a political solution.

[Moderator] Questions by Patien, an AFP correspondent: Please give some information in connection with the proposed economic reforms to attract foreign investment, encourage private industry development, and give impetus to export. Tell us also if there have been talks in connection with the export price of Afghanistan's gas to the Soviet Union, which has been cheap up to now or if talks are going on on the subject.

[Keshtmand] Afghanistan has a multifaceted and structured economy. The private sector of the economy in various spheres such as trade, transport, construction, agriculture, and social services has a strong base in our country's national economy. To attract foreign investment, changes must take place in laws on internal and external investments, to remove the limitations existing in this field. For example, it will not be necessary in the future for foreign investment to be created only in mixed firms with private and state sectors of the economy. However, firms, factories, and departments can be formed with 100 percent foreign investment, meaning investment should take place fully.

Foreign currency exchanges will take place in the free market and necessary facilities will be provided for export and import, transfer of capital and their interest in currencies, and easy transit, banking, and transportation facilities to attract foreign investment.

Private industry has developed extensively in our country and is continuing to go through the stages of development and progress. For example, it should be said that during the last 10 months of this year, investment has been made for 41 industrial and construction firms in the private sector. Some 20 productive firms have become operational and technical and economic studies have begun for 64 other productive firms this year. In connection with the encouragement and development of exporting goods from the country, it should be said that extensive measures have been taken and put into practice by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. For example, export goods are either free from custom charges or have very small percentages. Also based on the recent decisions by the government, income from the sale of export goods is being handed over to exporters at free market prices in full currency by the banks. Also, in exchange for exports, the possibility to import goods is being prepared and various others facilities have been provided.

In connection with exporting gas to the Soviet Union, it should be said that in the near future the possibility will be created to resume this activity. However, with regard to stories that Afghan gas was exported in the past at a cheap price, this is not true. The export of gas has always been calculated based on a price higher than the international price, taking into account one kg calories in 30,000 cubic meters and other factors. We can affirm that when talks take place in the future on this issue they will be based on all the accepted norms at the international level. We have all the facts and figures to prove that Afghanistan's gas has never been exported to the Soviet Union at a price lower than the international level. If such things have been said, it is a propaganda ploy by the opposition or is as a result of misinterpretation, misintention, or misinformation.

[Moderator] Another question by the AFP correspondent: Please tell us if the gas wells have resumed their activities and if their export is continuing. If they are closed, how long will they stay closed?

[Keshtmand] Primary work for reactivating gas wells has begun and soon the cleaning, drying, and transportation factories will resume their activities. However, it should be said that at the moment one of these factories and a number of the gas wells are active and provide the necessary gas for the power and fertilizer factories in Mazar-e Sharif and for the needs of that region. The Republic of Afghanistan hopes for cooperation from the Soviet Union in this regard so that the export of gas, which has great and special importance to our country's economy, will begin soon. We are also hoping for extensive cooperation from foreign establishments and companies based on mutual interests.

[Moderator] The third question by the AFP correspondent: In case of limited self-autonomy which the Afghan president has proposed for the regions under the control of the opposition, what type of plans and hopes does the Republic of Afghanistan have for signing contracts with foreign companies in the future?

[Keshtmand] To give national self-autonomy to those regions and nationalities who show such readiness and have expressed it is under our [word indistinct] and this is a principle issue for the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan. In connection with the second part of your question, I should say that we are in favor of extensive and expanded cooperation with foreign companies from the viewpoint of trade, investment, and cooperation based on mutual interest.

[Moderator] The fourth question by the AFP correspondent: Can you tell us if the planned economic transformation will bring any amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan? If so, what changes will be brought to the Constitution?

[Keshtmand] Yes. It requires a series of economic changes in the Constitution so that conditions and grounds are prepared to attract foreign investment and to expand and develop the private sector of the economy. For example, it should be said that we are considering removing the obstacles that exist in the path of creating private banks, insurance companies, and other financial firms in the framework of the private sector, and certain amendments might be made in the country's laws,

[Moderater] The fifth question by the AFP correspodent: Please give us the figures for the existing factories in the private sector and for the industrial and agricultural income of the private and state sectors before 1979, as well as the present industrial-agricultural income.

[Keshtmand] The number of production institutions in the private sector before 1979 was 273. The present figure is 367. The share of the private sector in the gross national product of the country during the aforementioned year was about 80 percent. It is now, however, 2 percent less. The reason for this is that the agricultural part, of which 99.2 percent belongs to the private sector, has suffered losses in recent years as a result of the continuation of the imposed war. To explain the matter, it should be said that the share of the private sector in the gross national product of the country is 100 percent in handicrafts, 20 percent in factory industries, 40 percent in transport, 10 percent in construction, 85 percent in domestic trade, and 60 percent in foreign trade. .

[Moderator] Esteemed chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, the journalists' written questions end here. If you will permit and if the respected journalists have oral questions, they would like to put them to you.

The REUTER correspondent asks if you could give us some figures on exports, imports, budget deficiences, foreign loans, etc, and if you could compare them with the years before the revolution.

[Keshtmand] Afghanistan, as in the past, traditionally continues trade, exports, and imports with all the countries it traded with before the revolution. Afghan exports are traditional goods, which have been exported in the past. Imports come from various countries of the world. The volume of our exports in the past year exceeded #500 million, but our imports were a little more, because agriculture and the country's economy has been damaged in the course of the years of war. Our imports were $675 million. In this way certain deficits exist in the country's trade balance. In the balance of payments such a large deficit does not exist.

[Moderator] The TASS correspondent says, I do not want to ask as many questions as the AFP reporter, I would just like to know if UN material assistance has arrived in Afghanistan. Has such help been made in practice and if so how much?

[Keshtmand] As you know, under the Salam program UN assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan has been extended. Several countries have made pledges to this program, from which about half, or about $600 million, has been given to the Republic of Afghanistan. Practical assistance has been rendered by the Soviet Union through the United Nations. At one stage $100 million worldwide aid-in-grant, through the United Nations, was distributed to deserving people in various parts of the country with the help of our local organs. Assistance from other countries, including Finland, was brought to Afghanistan by train and is being distributed in parts of the north of the country and other regions. Certain material help from the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy has arrived and French assistance is being sought. Several other countries are increasingly expressing readiness to help this program. However, major countries such as the United States have not only stopped their pledges to the United Nations, but unfortunately are creating obstacles in the way of others who wish to help. However, we are grateful for the humanitarian aid from the United Nations and consider it essential for those in need.

[Moderator] The TASS correspondent's second question: What is the amount of government assistance to the Hazara nationality?

[Keshtmand] You are aware that recently, in accordance with a similar decree from the president to the northeastern region of Afghanistan, assistance to the central parts of the country, namely Hazarajat, has also been issued. On the basis of this, the government has arranged for necessary calculations as well as resources for the dispatch of assistance. It is considering as a first step distributing an amount of necessary goods including wheat, sugar, tea, cooking oil, clothing, and footwear at a value of 400 million afghanis to deserving people, particularly the elderly, children, and women in the central regions.

[Moderator] Another question: What was the amount of money spent on the Kabul-Bagram highway?

[Keshtmand] The completion price of this highway exceeded 1.5 billion afghanis. The length of the road is 68 km. It was built and ready for use in a very short time.

[Moderator] Satar Nekzai, reporter from the Payam daily, asks: The economic losses inflicted on Afghanistan as a result of the undeclared war during the years of the revolution could be estimated in their entirety. [sentence as heard] Were it not for such interventions, what would have been the face of Afghanistan?

[Keshtmand] In accordance with estimates that have been reached on the basis of certain calculations, the losses suffered by the country's economy as a result of the subversive activities of the armed opposition exceed 700 billion afghanis. This figure is indicative of the fact that we have suffered a great and gigantic loss in this area. Great possibilities for the growth and development of the country were also lost. If we had not suffered such losses and if the war had not occurred, great possibilities would have existed for the speedy growth of our country.

[Moderator] [passage indistinct]

[Keshtmand] Unfortunately last year, due to very cold weather and other difficulties, as well as agricultural diseases and other factors, the agricultural situation in some parts in the north of the country was not satisfactory. However, the Afghan state, contrary to what you said, has rendered all-round and extensive assistance. Giving economic and food assistance to the people in the northern provinces has not been difficult to us, because as you know, the main road for the arrival of food and goods to our country is Hayratan, which is located in the north. Goods convoys are consistently moving from the north of the country to the south and assistance has also been given to the country's northern provinces. At the moment a large convoy carrying goods is moving from Mazar-e Shrif toward Faryab Province. We have recently given urgent food assistance to the Qeysar District which was facing such difficulties.

[Moderator] A question by CBS News: It has been widely reported in the Western media that Soviet aid to Afghanistan last year exceeded $3.5 to 4 billion. If this is not so, what is the true figure? How do you envision that this assistance, as reflected, will continue to be rendered to you?

[Keshtmand] This is a system of estimation that has been envisioned in the West. We have heard plenty of this. However, we have our specific counting system with the Soviet Union, because trade with and assistance from the Soviet Union have been worked out in accordance with mutual agreements between us. Such accounting is on the basis of a clearing system in trade and exchange. Of course considerable assistance by the Soviet Union was given to Afghanistan last year and so far this year. The people of Afghanistan are profoundly grateful. This assistance is of course not new and the Soviet Union was helping Afghanistan before the revolution. The assistance has an overall constructive character and has been used in the growth of the economy and culture of the country. Soviet assistance in recent years has also been utilized in the reconstruction of the country and for the revival of the destroyed institutions and in various other economic areas.

[Moderator] Is the government intending to devalue the afghani, meaning that at present the Afghan currency is not effective? Its value against the dollar is 500, as compared to the official value, which is 55 afghanis to dollar?

[Keshtmand] We do not use this system against the afghani. No devaluation is being considered. As you know, in our banks both rates exist: the free market price as well as the official rate, which has a budgetary character. However, we will soon take up measures so that a fixed proportion between the market rate of exchange and the official state rate of foreign exchange will be brought about.

Enemy Extremists 'Wiped Out' in Various Attacks

LD0602110290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 5, BAKHTAR—Contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces stationed in the Khost grand district came under the heavy fires of the extremists, Pakistanis and Saudi Wahhabis during the past 4 days, a concerned military source reported to BAKHTAR.

The Khowst garrison resorted to counter attacks and took under air and artillery strikes the enemy positions in the Tanai, Towr Ghar, Isma'il Kheyl and other corners of Khowst city. Over 42 enemy were wiped out from the battle scenes. A serviceman was killed and 3 others wounded during the operations.

Also, the enemies attacks on the Samar Kheyl, Behsud, Sorkh Rud and Kan Wa Katarghai areas in Nangarhar Province were frustrated and 31 foes were rooted out.

The source further added that during the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces carried out in the Towr Kotal, Qandahar Province, 72 mortar shells, 14 recoilless gun shells, and 4 cases of heavy machinegun bullets were seized.

The enemies attacked a number of security posts in Qandahar. The Qandahar garrison retaliated and more than 27 extremists were killed. Two civilians were injured during the enemies attacks as well.

According to another report reached from the Laghman Province, the detachment of the Armed Forces in their attacks on a supply depot of the enemy killed 5 patrols of the depot.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy were either destroyed or seized by the Armed Forces.

Shindand Radio-TV Installations Commissioned

LD0602104990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul. Feb. 5, BAKHTAR—The work of installation and montaging of the radio-TV network of the Shindand Grand District, Herat Province which had already started, was commissioned on Feb. 4 1990 by minister without portfolio and head of north-west zone, Fazl al-Haq Khaleqyar.

A correspondent of BAKHTAR reported from Herat that ceremony held on this occasion, was attended by a large number of elders, chieftains, responsibles of state organs and leadership board of the district.

First, head of the north-west zone spoke about the humanistic goals of the policy of national reconcilation. State current policy in the field of growth of cultural affairs and importance of mass media in reflection of realities existed in the society. The said radio-TV installation has broadcasting four hours in a day.

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns Home After Foreign Tour

BK0602132490 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpt] President Ershad returned home Tuesday [6 February] morning after a 10-day tour of Saudi Arabia, the United States, and France. During his stay in the United States, President Ershad addressed a meeting of the Group of 77 at the United Nations. He also called on Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. In Washington, President Ershad met the U.S. President, George Bush, and attended the 38th national breakfast prayer. He also had fruitful discussions with Secretary of State James Baker and other high officials of the State Department, besides the president exchanged views with a number of leading senators and congressmen. [passage omitted]

Police, Students Clash Over University Move

BK0702110990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 7 (AFP)—Some 50 people were injured and 30 arrested Wednesday [7 February] when police clashed with students and townspeople protesting the shifting of Bangladesh's only Islamic university to a new site, witnesses said.

They said a large contingent of police from Dhaka raided the Islamic university at Gazipur, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from here, and baton-charged students and local people blocking the highway linking the capital with northern Bangladesh. Those detained included both students and local people, the witnesses said, adding that some of the injured were being treated at local hospitals.

Residents said police also raided areas outside the campus, which local officials denied. Police were guarding the town, the residents added.

The police action came a day after Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed announced that the university, whose operations have been shifted to western Bangladesh's Kushtia District, would be turned into a modern hospital.

Classes have already begun on the university's new campus at Kushtia, but attendance was reportedly sparse. Students and Gazipur residents observed a half-day strike Sunday in Dhaka and a 48-hour strike in the campus town to protest the decision to move the country's only Islamic university away from the capital area.

Construction of the Islamic university in Kushtia began in the early 1980s under the government of assasinated president Ziaur Rahman. But immediately after coming to power in a 1982 coup, President Hussain Mohammad Ershad without explanation ordered the partly constructed school to be moved to Gazipur, where a training center operated by the Jeddah-based Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is located. Last year, he ordered the university back to its original site in response to demands from Kushtia residents.

The president asked the Education Ministry to quickly implement the shift and to leave the Gazipur site to the OIC institute.

Minister Explains Foreign Policy to Parliament

BK0102133090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has said Bangladesh expects a positive response from India soon to its proposal for a permanent agreement on water sharing between the two neighboring countries. He was initiating a general discussion on foreign policy in Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] Thursday [1 February]. He said the new Indian foreign minister is likely to visit Bangladesh soon to discuss various outstanding problems between Dhaka and New Delhi.

Mr. Mahmud informed the house that efforts are on to resolve amicably all irritants in bilateral relations with India, including Tin Bigha and Angor Pota Enclave as well as Talpatti. He said being copartner of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], Bangladesh has good relations with other South Asian countries, including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Today, Bangladesh is the biggest trading partner of Bhutan.

Turning to the Chittagong Hill Tracts question, he said due to the realistic policy of the present government, people of the area have now realized their follies and are putting up stiff resistance to the so-called Shanti Bahini [Peace Force]. Tribal refugees have also started returning home.

He said we have also very good relations with all our neighbors, including Burma. The foreign minister referred to Bangladesh's friendly ties with the countries of Southeast Asia, Japan, and China.

About the current situation in Kashmir, Mr. Mahmud said Bangladesh is deeply concerned over the developments there which are fraught with dangers of another Indo-Pak war. Since we believe in peace, we hope this problem will be resolved in a peaceful manner.

About Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Palestine, he said it is the principled policy of Bangladesh to support the right of self-determination and the right of choosing the government. Explaining the objectives, perspective, and program in regard to our foreign policy, he said the prime aim of it is to uphold national independence and sovereignty. Bangladesh today has definite position of dignity in the comity of nations due to its effective role in different forums, including the United Nations, Non-aligned Movement, ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The foreign minister also made special reference to our cooperative relations with

Islamic world, the United States, the Soviet Union, the EEC countries, and all other friendly nations. Bangladesh has also been playing a vital role in protecting global environment. In this connection, the foreign minister gave a brief resume of the initiatives taken by President Ershad and first lady Begum Raushan Ershad at both home and abroad.

Minister Warns of 'Upheaval' Caused by Corruption

BK0702031090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0247 GMT 7 Feb 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 7 (AFP)—A top government minister has warned that rampant corruption could cause social upheaval in Bangladesh, while opposition groups have claimed that most sectors of national life were being slowly gripped by the tentacles of graft.

Labour and Manpower Minister Sirajul Hossain Khan warned parliament Monday [5 February] of a "social upheaval by 1995," when he said the "rage and anger of millions of homeless and hungry people would finally burst into the open." He also called for an anti-graft campaign beginning with politicians, saying "we must free politics from corruption ... if we can do that, we will be able to wipe out corruption from other fields."

His comment coincided with widespread allegations from opposition politicians and intellectuals that stories of graft were flying so thickly in Bangladesh that one was sure to be hit with a story whenever he ventured out.

The left-leaning five-party alliance has said that President Hussain Mohammad Ershad sacked two of his ministers in December for corruption after complaints. The group said it possessed a "list of many other officials involved in corruption."

In one of many stories of dishonesty filling the Bangladesh gossip market, a young businessman related his experience of corruption in a government organisation: "I was ordered to supply 5,000 calendars by the organisation, but to my amazement one of the officials later called to tell me to make only 2,000 and to submit a bill for the total amount ordered." He said he was not sure how to do it, but at the end he made a profit beyond his investment by only signing several papers, because the money charged for the 3,000 never-printed calendars was divided between him and the official.

At Dhaka's Zia International Airport, a panting and cautious official ran alongside a passenger returning home with substantial luggage, whisking him through the green channel after he had had been promised "bakshish." The passenger, once out of [words indistinct]—the area covered by the closed-circuit camera—paid a nominal 50 taka (1.56 dollars) and walked off. "I paid 500 taka (15.60 dollars) to one officer and the 50 taka to another because, what is the point of declaring a few small taxable items when influential people walk off with many such things," the passenger said, adding that bribing the official saved both money and time.

Mr. Khan, a journalist-turned-politician, was the first cabinet minister to publicly comment on the growing corruption, which the five-party alliance has said was destroying the country's fragile economy.

Political observers here said the growing public outcry against graft could eventually turn out to be an embarrassment for Mr. Ershad, unless he took immediate steps to curb corruption. Mr. Ershad seized power from an elected government in a 1982 bloodless coup, saying he was forced to do so because of widespread corruption even involving some ministers. He promised to eradicate corruption from Bangladesh, but appointed several ministers who later served prison terms for corruption handed down by his martial law courts. One of the country's leading journalists, Ataus Samad, wrote in the latest issue of the English-weekly HOLIDAY that "stories of graft and corruption make one feel very insecure" and that fear of extortion was mounting.

"One popular perception is that corruption is now a practice which is accepted at every level and, if you do not pay a bribe, another man will walk off with the deal while you keep waiting without reason," he wrote.

Mr. Samad, who was jailed for reporting the opposition's anti-government campaign of November 10, 1987, said that money is buying power and that most citizens were defenseless against those who enjoy power of "any kind."

A retired government official, who requested anonymity, said a network of graft was successfully tightening its grip on the "state, government and society," with moral values declining. He said drugs were destroying a generation that was supposed to be the future leaders, but that in some cases "corrupt" parents were destroying their own children, not realizing that the "present will become past quickly."

Others interviewed said there had been allegations of corruption against major government-run services, as well as banks and individuals, but no action was being taken against them.

India

'Mind-Boggling' Flow of U.S. Arms to Pakistan

BK0802113190 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Commentary by PTI correspondent G.S. Srinivasan]

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh's, three-day whirlwind visit to the United States which concluded on 3 February is a significant one in that it was essentially designed to counter Pakistan's disinformation campaign on Kashmir. Mr Singh went to the United States in pursuit of India's diplomatic initiative

on the Kashmir issue and held discussion with Bush administration officials, including the national security adviser, Mr Brent Scowcroft. The Indian foreign secretary's visit to the United States needs to be viewed in the context of continued American aid to Pakistan militarily despite the sanctimonious denials by the U.S. Administration that such military aid would not be used against India.

Mr Singh made it clear to the Bush administration that India is committed to promoting friendly ties with all its neighbors, that India does not another war with Pakistan on Kashmir. Pakistan has been a major recipient of U.S. military aid in the 1950's and 1960's, when it was seen by the U.S. as a major Asian bulwark against both the Soviet Union and China. After India-Pakistan war of 1971, Pakistan obtained military hardware from the U.S. through clandestine channels. Between 1981 and 1987, Pakistan obtained a $3.02 billion aid package from the U.S. comprising both economic and military assistance. In fact, the Soviet Union has said the Symington amendment stipulating a bar on U.S. aid to any country developing nuclear weapons has been discarded, though Pakistan's penchant for developing nuclear capability has been widely known.

Astonishingly, the U.S. has earmarked a sum of $4.02 billion aid package for Pakistan for 1988 to 1993 in which military assistance would form a major chunk. It would be pertinent to note that of the military assistance, 90 percent would be in the shape of grants and only 10 percent as loans which are not required to be repaid. It may be noted that after two decades the U.S. resumed massive arms transfer to Pakistan in 1977-78. No doubt there were exceptions and U.S. arms were transferred often most reluctantly during that interim period. Successive Indian prime ministers beginning from Jawaharlal Nehru, Gulzarilal Nanda, Lalbahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi had urged the United States not to arm Pakistan excessively to make that country take an adventurous move against India.

On 28 April 1965, India's then defense minister, Mr Krishna Menon, told the Lok Sabha that the Indian Government should tell the United States that the arms supply to Pakistan to fight communism will be used against India. He recalled that late Mr Dulles had assured him that if this happened, supplies would be reduced. The then Indian ambassador in Washington, Mr B.K. Nehru, lodged a strong protest with Mr Dean Rusk, the secretary of state, on 3 September 1965 against the use of U.S. equipment, including Patton tanks, F-86 Sabre jets, and F-104 supersonic fighters by Pakistan in Kashmir. He pointed out that this violated assurances given to the Indian Government by President Eisenhower in as far as back as 1954 that equipment supplied to Pakistan would not be used against India.

Till 1982, the Pakistan Air Force consisted of French and Chinese aircraft. Pakistan had a choice of retaining its French connection or to acquire the U.S. F-16's. Pakistan insisted upon F-16's not only as a quality aircraft, but also as a symbol of strategic ties between Pakistan and the U.S. Besides, Pakistan's naval program began to acquire a new shape after 1977-78 when it started acquiring Gearing class destroyers from U.S.

All told, it is palpably clear that over the years despite the official ban, Pakistan has been acquiring arms and ammunition from the United States. After the ban was lifted in 1970's, its pace of acquisition of sophisticated weapons from the U.S. was simply mind-boggling. No wonder India has been legitimately concerned over the pile-up of sophisticated weapons across the border. Though the Bush administration had advised both India and Pakistan to enter into a political dialogue within the framework of the Simla Accord to resolve their outstanding issues bilaterally, the continued supply of arms and ammunition to Pakistan by the United States remains a major irritant in India-U.S. relations. Sanity demands that U.S. should desist from arming Pakistan unduly so that its persistent plea for peace with the Soviet Union and also for universal peace should stand the scrutiny of honest proclamations.

Commentary on U.S. Defense Budget Proposals

BK0602124590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Commentary by J. Sudhakar Nair: "U.S. Global Defense Interests"]

[Text] The proposed cut in the U.S. defense budget and the sharp new cuts of American and Soviet troops in central Europe have been widely welcomed as yet another initiative to ease tension and usher in peace. The budget, pegged at a level of $292 billion or roughly 25 percent of the total budget of $1,234 billion, is about 2.5 percent less than that of last year. A cut in the American military spending marks a shift from the emphasis on the risk of the possible military conflict between the U.S. and the USSR. The cut in the troops to a level of 195,000 each side is also likely to make substantial progress in the ongoing arms control talks between the two countries.

Credit should go to the American Administration for taking one of the most significant steps toward conventional arms control to more appropriate levels of military forces in Europe. In fact, the dramatic events in central Europe and the sweeping changes in the Warsaw Pact countries were the most opportune moments to usher in a new era of peace in the world. But one disturbing aspect of the troop reduction is the likelihood of strengthening American presence in the Asian region. In such an eventuality, several Third World countries might be prompted to strengthen their military buildup, which is not a good sign to ease tension in some of the hot spots in the region. In that case, the gain of Europe would be at the cost of Asia, and this should be avoided at all cost.

In line with the reduced military spending and troops reduction, one would have expected the U.S. Administration to also make some concessions in its efforts to

modernize its nuclear defense system. The administration has, however, ruled out any letup in the tactical field so as to give a genuine disarmament. This attitude is despite the fact that the Soviet military threat in Europe was diminishing.

Another area of concern is the proposed increased spending on the Strategic Defense Initiative, or popularly known as the Star Wars. The increase in the allocation for this program by $900 million to a total of $4.65 billion for fiscal 1991 was not warranted in view of a changed situation in Eastern Europe and the stress on the need for peace. The U.S. Administration has, however, justified that increased spending on the grounds that there were third parties and non-superpowers who have ballistic missile capability that made it imperative to have the Star Wars program. It is interesting to note that the U.S. is going ahead with the program regardless of the improved relations with Moscow.

The reduction of the conventional military forces in Western Europe is expected to result in closure of at least three bases in the UK. However, this step will have its desired effect only if the military forces and equipment at these bases are not redeployed in other parts of Britain.

Another relevant area of American defense at present is in Panama, where U.S. troops were dispatched to overthrow the Manuel Noreiga regime on December 20th last year. The Bush administration has indicated that the troops will return by the end of this month, suggesting that they would not like to have an unwarranted presence in that country.

One area of concern from the Indian point of view is a grant of a hefty aid package of $564 million including $230 million in military contents by the U.S. for Pakistan for fiscal 1991. It would appear that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan last year did not seem to weigh in the mind of Washington while continuing the military aid to Pakistan at the same level as of last year. The massive American military aid program began after the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan in 1979. Though the American administration has tightened the grip on foreign aid, the continuing military package seems to have (?come) in view of the continuing strategic importance of Pakistan from its point of view and to keep a check on India. New Delhi, of course, has no intention to embark on a military adventure in Pakistan. Nevertheless, the peace dividend due to reduction of Soviet and American troops, closing of U.S. bases, and reduced military spending by Washington is expected to yield positive results in the last decade of the 20th Century.

Janata Dal Workers Protest at Pakistani Embassy

BK0702124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Janata Dal workers today held a stormy protest demonstration in front of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. The protest was against the intervention of Pakistan in the internal affairs of India. The gathering also included a large number of refugees from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

A five-member delegation led by the Janata Dal National Action Group member, Mr Dhirendra Pratap, presented a memorandum to the Pakistan High Commission. The memorandum reminded Islamabad of the consequences of the 1965 and 1971 conflicts and warned the Pakistan Government against indulging in any misadventure against India.

Tibetans Burn Chinese Flag in Delhi Protest

BK0102112190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 1 (AFP)—Hundreds of exiled Tibetans chanting separatist slogans staged a noisy protest demonstration here Thursday [1 February] to demand freedom for their Chinese-ruled homeland, witnesses said.

The protestors, mostly youths, burnt a Chinese flag at the end of their 50-minute march from a World War I memorial called India Gate to a ground near the parliament house about a kilometer (mile) [as received] away.

"The struggle of Tibetan people is the struggle for their just cause," the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, which called for the protest, said in an open letter to Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"It is a struggle for their rights to live in peace and in dignity, and for the right to self-determination," added the letter, distributed to reporters at the rally site.

Some 450 Tibetans who took part in the march were earlier stopped by the police when they set out from their settlement on the outskirts of the capital. But they were later permitted to go to India Gate in buses.

The protestors, who kept a steady chant of such slogans as "we want freedom," carried the Tibetan flag, banned in China, and banners calling for independence from China as well as increased support from India.

A spokesman for the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, the Tibetan parliament-in-exile, said Tibetans would begin a relay fast outside the Chinese Embassy from Thursday till March 11 to protest alleged Chinese atrocities.

The open letter to Mr. V.P. Singh charged Beijing with carrying out house-to-house sweeps in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, to dig out underground Tibetan literature and mass arrests to intimidate people.

"Beatings, torture and inhuman prison conditions are routine for the thousands of Tibetans who have (been) arrested for political activities," it added.

India is home to the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan god-king who fled his homeland in 1959 following an anti-Chinese uprising, as well as more than 100,000 of his followers.

Bofors Probe Team Leaves for Switzerland, Sweden

BK0802042090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] A high-level Indian team has left for Geneva in Switzerland to deliver a letters rogatory issued by the Delhi court to Swiss judicial authorities requesting them to assist an investigation into the Bofors gun deal. The seven-page letter was sent through a diplomatic channel after the special judge of the Delhi court, Mr R.C. Jain, issued it last evening. The team, which left last night, includes the DIG [deputy inspector general] in charge of the Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] and the additional solicitor general of India, Mr Arun Jethi.

Agency reports quoting CBI sources say that the letters rogatory has sought information about the beneficiaries of the alleged kickbacks and the holders of the six frozen Swiss bank accounts to which these have been credited by Messrs A.B. Bofors of Sweden.

The team will also go to Sweden to find out the modalities of seeking cooperation from that country and information regarding beneficiaries in the deal.

The Delhi court's request to Swiss judicial authorities for assistance has been made under the Indo-Swiss bilateral treaty for criminal offenses signed last year and in accordance with the criminal procedure code. It may be recalled that CBI had moved the court for the letters rogatory after it filed an FIR [first information report] on the alleged payoff in the Bofors gun deal last month.

Premier Suggests Panel Resolve Shrine Issue

BK0702034590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has suggested setting up of a committee to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. The home minister, Mr Muhammad Sayeed; the finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavte; and the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Mulayem Singh Yadav, will represent the government in the proposed committee. The names of other members of the committee will be announced within a week's time.

In an appeal seeking the cooperation of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] and other parties involved in the issue, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh felt that the problem will definitely be solved in about 4 months. He said time is needed to discuss the issue with all concerned because the problem is connected with the hearts and minds of everybody.

An 11-member delegation of the parishad met the prime minister yesterday and pledged its unstinting support to the efforts to defend the unity and integrity of the country. Our correspondent reports that the government, which originally wanted to respond to suggestions made by the VHP delegation at its meeting with the prime minister, came out with the appeal as the parishad later adopted a tough position. Our correspondent also points out that the land where the VHP wants to construct the temple is not on its name and the building plan of the temple does not have the required sanction.

Kashmir 'Peaceful'; No Daytime Curfew in Srinagar

BK0702155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The leader of the National Conference parliamentary party, Professor Saifuddin Soz, has said there is a feeling of insecurity in the Kashmir Valley. Professor Soz, who returned to New Delhi after a visit to the state, demanded an inquiry into the killings and alleged atrocities in the valley. He wanted that restrictions on newspapers in Srinagar should be immediately lifted.

The situation in the Kashmir Valley continued to be peaceful today. No major incident has been reported except the flinging of a petrol bomb in Srinagar at a police party in which four of them were injured, and there was a fire on the Lal Chowk area. The governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has ordered a magisterial inquiry to ascertain the cause of the fire and assess the damage. The district magistrate, Srinagar, will hold the inquiry.

There was no curfew in the city in the daytime. There will be no day curfew tomorrow also. Banks and offices and several business establishments were open. Traffic also plied as usual.

Mr Jag Mohan has said that the administration has been able to maintain peace despite Pakistan's efforts to incite the people. He said apart from propaganda on Pakistan radio and television, people are being brought to the border and made to shout slogans.

'Subversives' Kill 2 BSF Personnel

BK0802091090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two BSF [Border Security Force] personnel were shot dead by some unidentified subversives this morning near Chanthra locality in Srinagar City when they were making purchases from a shop. The shopkeeper was also injured.

The state governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has condemned this dastardly act. He has announced an ex gratia payment of 1.25 lakh rupees to the next of kin of the killed BSF personnel and 5,000 rupees to the injured shopkeeer. The governor has also offered to provide jobs to the eldest dependent of the deceased.

Forces 'Exceptionally Vigilant'

BK0802060790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, protest demonstrations against Monday's intrusion by Pakistanis in Randhir Singh Pura continued in several places in Jammu division for the second day today. A [word indistinct] team today visited the spot where the intrusion took place and filed this report:

[Correspondent] As our team approached Randhir Singh Pura village, better known as R.S. Pura, life seemed relaxed and normal. However, things were not to be seen [words indistinct] ahead. At the Octroi Post on the international border dividing India and Pakistan, forces on both sides appeared to be exceptionally vigilant. Reason: The attempts by nearly 4,000 Pakistani nationals to trespass into Indian territory day before yesterday. The dark burnt fields on the Indian side bear testimony to the attempts of the rampaging Pakistanis to set on fire the crop. The mob, shouting anti-India slogans, carried placards and posters.

This [words indistinct] report from the BSF [Border Security Force] commander:

[BSF commander] The [words indistinct] Pakistani commander did not come out. Thereafter, our post commanders came on to the post and our sentry fired warning shots in the air. Even then the crowd did not desist from entering into India. They did enter India, some of them even uprooted our border fence and then burnt our crops which were right on the border. In that eventuality, the outpost commander and the sentry took action and fired.

[Correspondent] Considering the tension on the border of the country, what is the morale of the jawans [soldiers]?

[Commander] The BSF, which is deployed on the border, is prepared for all eventuality. And the morale of the troops is very high. We are prepared to face any threat from across the border, and we will not allow them to enter an inch in our territory.

[Correspondent] In 1947, the entry into Kashmir by Pakistani tribals Kol Kabayalis led to a war between India and Pakistan. The question now is whether Pakistan is adopting a similar line of thought again. This is Karuna Sarod Munshi reporting from the international border at R.S. Pura for doordarshan news.

Minister on Press Restrictions

BK0802091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr P. Upendra, has said that some restrictions imposed on the press in Kashmir Valley will be lifted as soon as the situation becomes normal there. Addressing a seminar on challenges before the Indian press in the 1990's in New Delhi today, the minister said that the Indian and foreign press will understand the delicacy of the situation.

Reiterating the government's commitment to freedom of the press, Mr Upendra said steps are being taken for its guarantee. Speakers at the seminar stressed the need to preserve the freedom of the press.

9 Killed in 'Terrorist Violence' in Punjab

BK0702090990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons, including four terrorists and three policemen, have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist violence since last evening.

According to an official spokesman, terrorists shot dead a member of a rival gang in Village Sudhar in Ludhiana District this morning.

In Amritsar District, a hard-core terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Fatehabad early this morning.

Another terrorist was shot dead by a member of a rival gang in Sahali area last evening.

Naxalites Kidnap 4 Policemen, Seize Weapons

BK0702030390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] struck again, kidnapping four policemen in Nizamabad District. Police say a group of Naxalites belonging to People's War group abducted the armed reserved constables while they were on guard duty at the Nizam Sagar Hydroelectric Project on Monday [5 February] night. Reports say that the Naxalites also snatched away five rifles and 250 rounds of ammunition before kidnapping the policemen. They were demanding the release of two of their colleagues and lifting of police patrolling in the villages. Police have rushed to the spot.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberaties Committee [APCLC] has appealed to the Naxalites to release the policemen unconditionally. In a statement, the APCLC said the kidnapping would be counterproductive to the efforts of the state government in releasing Naxalite undertrials in a phased manner to restore democratic process in the state.

Naxalites Release Policemen

BK0802043890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the four constables of the armed reserve police who were kidnapped by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] have been released. They were abducted on Monday night [5 February] while on duty at the Nizam Sagar hydroelectric project. However, the Naxalites have not returned their arms.

Iran

PFLP-GC, Hizballah Praise Attack on Bus

NC0702190390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] led by Ahmad Jibril has praised the daring operation carried out by Muslim fighters against a bus carrying Zionists in the Egyptian town of Ismailia, describing it as another reaction by Muslims to the Zionist entity.

According to our correspondent, a PFLP-GC official said that this heroic operation is another strong slap in the face of the surrender plans aimed at desecrating the sacred goals of the Palestinian cause. Those who shed tears at the death of the Zionists have forgotten that the Zionist entity arrogantly opens fire at unarmed Palestinian children every day.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Hizballah has also issued a statement praising the daring operation against the Zionists in Ismailia. Hizballah considered this operation a manifestation of the Egyptian Muslim people's call for justice against the Zionist entity's injustices and crimes.

Hizballah added that the operation has proved that there is no room for Zionists to live with Muslims in peace because the Zionists are the historic enemies of the Islamic nation. The U.S. and Zionist attempts to keep Egypt away from Islam's goals will fail.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Foreign Ambassadors

LD0702120490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Announcer-read speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to an audience of foreign ambassadors in Tehran on 7 February—recorded]

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn, and on the eve of the 11th anniversary of Islamic revolution of Iran's victory, President Hashemi-Rafsanjari this morning received ambassadors and charge d'affaires of foreign countries in Tehran. In that audience, also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and some of the deputies and advisers of that ministry, Jose Rafael Zanoni, the Venezuelan ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], spoke first on behalf of the other ambassadors, and congratulated His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and the president of Iran, on the 10 Days of Dawn and the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

He said: The diplomatic delegations residing in Iran follow develoments in Iran with utmost interest, and they hope that the IRI will be successful in the implementation of her first five-year plan, which has recently been ratified. He expressed the hope that the Iranian nation should be able to attain its objectives during the course of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency.

Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the diplomatic delegations in Iran, and said: Fortunately, today we view the historical developments as positive, and it seems that history is moving towards the sovereignty of nations' wills, and towards what is right and proper. I believe this is the most important aspect of world developments during the recent decades. The president described the special characteristics of Islamic revolution of Iran, and reminded that we hold this belief that the fundamental path towards prosperity is that serious attention must be paid to the will of nations and peoples, and that the guarantee for peace, security, and international cooperations—which is one of the necessities of today's world—will be attained through the sovereignty of people in their own countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the Islamic revolution of Iran is seriously intent on moving alongside the wishes of its people. He stated that we sincerely oppose any kind of tension, war-mongering, and unjust encounters. With the exception of Iraq, the situation on our borders with our other neighbors constitutes the best example for our stance. We give particular importance to the security of the Persian Gulf, and you all know very well how crucial security and calm in the Persian Gulf is for the world. The president continued his address to diplomatic delegations in Iran by saying that despite all enmities that we saw during the course of the war from those who used the Persian Gulf, and whose interests and resources lie in that region, we maintained a relative security in the Persian Gulf through our self-restraint [khishtan-dari]. Such self-restraint was very difficult for us, because we could see that the other side [Iraq] had no regard for any of the principles which are respected by the international community.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that Iran's Islamic revolution is not intent on adventurism and tension-mongering in the Persian Gulf or anywhere else, and that others must pass judgements about the revolution and the IRI with fairness. He said: As someone who is involved in political and social issues of the world, I would like to propose that we must cooperate with each other for the sake of people's well-being and growth [roshd] and that no one should be frightened about people managing their own affairs. The president then positively evaluated the events in East Europe, saying: Of course, within the present juncture some problems may occur for some countries, however those who are interested in the history of humanity and seek humanity's movement towards peace must be vigilant that such a movement will not be confined to East Europe, so that the rest of the world continues such a process.

In another part of his speech, the president pointed to the approval of the five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan. He said Iran is prepared to begin the new era of reconstruction through all-encompassing cooperations. This plan is the background to the second plan which will be implemented after the

conduct of some fundamental and essential tasks. Therefore, our fields for cooperations with those countries who are keen on sincere cooperation with us are open.

In conclusion, the president once again thanked the heads of diplomatic legations in Tehran for their congratulation messages to the leader of Iranian nation and the president, on the occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn period.

Next Round of Majles By-Elections Planned

LD0802114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] After reviewing the results of Tehran constituency's by-election results for the Majles third term in numerous meetings, the Council of Guardians approved the proper conduct at the aforementioned elections. Messrs Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Karmani, Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and Ms Mariyam Za'ferani-Behruzi, found their way to the Majles in the first round. An election will now be held to select the other deputy from among Messrs Asgar-Owladi and Sarhaddi-Zadeh through the second round [of elections].

Khomeyni's Emphasis on Self-Sufficiency Cited

NC0602144390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. On the 11th anniversary of the dawn of the Islamic revolution, even though the immortal leader of the world oppressed and the greatest genuine combatant against colonialism and the colonialists has departed from our midst, his call of deliverance which accompanied his message for faith in oneself, self-reliance, and the need for independence continues to be just as resonant as before, over the Islamic country of Iran.

Throughout the course of his fruitful life, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, formulated a comprehensive path and policy for an Islamic system and it was this very policy that in the course of the past 11 years we have striven and worked to achieve. By his complete cognizance of Islamic teachings and the experience of the Third World countries' dependence, Khomeyni deemed servility as the basic factor in their being dependent and needy. He believed that colonialism's greatest plan—which exerted immense influence in other countries as well as our dear country—lay in alienating the colonized countries from their own identity and projecting them as affiliated to the East or the West.

The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran had described self-sufficiency and faith in its own ability as the two conditions for attaining economic independence and faith in self-reliance. Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—said: We must work hard to attain self-sufficiency on all fronts. There is no hope of achieving independence without economic independence. If you wish to attain real independence and freedom, you should strive to attain self-sufficiency in everything.

The Islamic revolution presented the people of Iran with slogans on self-sufficiency and abstention from foreign dependence. The guidance of our great imam gave shape to faith and ability in the minds of the Muslim people of Iran and infused a new spirit in the form of the experts, employees, and workers of the country by tapping their dormant talents for promoting construction and self-sufficiency. In this way, the campaign for self-sufficiency was initiated with great momentum in all the aspects of the economy.

Self-sufficiency cells were established in most production units and, almost daily, most industrial components began to be produced indigenously by our experts. Of course, self-sufficiency in its absolute sense does not imply complete freedom from the need for others or severance of relations with countries. The plots of world arrogance against the Islamic revolution also were instrumental in a way in bolstering the idea of self-reliance and refraining from the need of foreigners. Regarding the economic embargo, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, has exhorted: If we have constantly have to stretch out our hands to others in the fields of the advanced industries and if we have to spend our whole life groveling before others, you will never be able to allow the power to create, invent, and make progress to blossom in yourself. You saw that all those who could not produce earlier mustered all their abilities and managed to meet most of the needs of the armed forces and the factories themselves.

Economic pressure exerted on the Islamic Republic of Iran which with other concomitant factors created economic disarray in the country and the reduction in imports became the motivation for providing for needs indigenously, from local resources and materials. In the course of the past few years, most of the commodities and the spare parts that had been imported from abroad were produced in the country's factories and workshops. As regards quality and the cost of production these spare parts rival the foreign manufactured components.

Such gains are evidence, more than anything else, of the power of conviction, faith, and self-reliance among the Islamic nation of Iran. This faith was instilled by the guidance of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and gave a tangible shape to the Islamic system. The initial kneading into shape by the exhortations and injunctions of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, regarding the attainment of economic independence and self-sufficiency was to bring home the fact that where there is a will, there is a way.

Today, as we enter the 12th year of the triumph of the Islamic revolution, it is for the people of the Islamic Muslim nation to uphold and protect the guidance of their immortal leader and the valuable gains achieved in

the field of self-sufficiency and economic independence and to prevent the weakening of these standards and precious achievements.

Magazine Cited on Iranian-U.S. Claims Settlements

LD0702142590 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] London, Feb. 7, IRNA—The U.S. and Iran are increasingly resorting to bilateral talks to settle billions of dollars in claims, before the special Iran-U.S. claims tribunal in The Hague, in Holland, but Iran has said that some official documents have been forged in order to show that financial claims made against Iran are valid, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST (MEED), a UK weekly magazine, has said in its latest issue.

MEED said that the two countries had begun dealing outside the tribunal, because "at the rate the tribunal was moving it would have taken another decade at an estimated cost of 5 million dollars annually, before all were settled".

But Iranians "still face heavy odds", the magazine said, because "there is apparently a thriving market in stolen and forged Iranian documents, which former employees of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and other state organisations" (of the Shah's time, who are in America and the West, having stolen from Iran), "sell to U.S. firms".

MEED continued that originals of documents go missing from files in Tehran and that "these are allegedly sold to U.S. claimants for large sums". One Iranian lawyer, quoted by the weekly, said that exiles who fled abroad from Iran at the time of the revolution, took blank letterheads with them, which were then post-dated to show that unshipped goods were in fact delivered. MEED added, however, that the tribunal in The Hague "has so far accepted none of Iran's claims of forgery".

According to MEED, "The Iranians at The Hague were until recently outclassed by the American corporate lawyers", but "with the experience and confidence gained since the tribunal started sitting, the Iranian lawyers have in the past two years, put in a better performance, winning better deals for their country". It added that "in the early years, even the American lawyers privately conceded that Iran was being 'ripped off' at the tribunal".

The magazine continued that the most recent 'out of court settlement' involved Phillips Petroleum Company and NIOC, in which the two sides agreed a sum of 92 million dollars to be paid by NIOC. The tribunal had set a figure of 110 million dollars. The writer suggested that these 'out of court settlements' may be paving the way towards a normalisation of relations between Iran and the U.S.

The two countries had earlier agreed the effective liquidation of an account set up with The Bank of England, the UK's central bank, in 1981 to settle claims by U.S. banks on non-syndicated loans to the ex-Shah's government, MEED said. It added that "Iran was unable to draw on the 818 million dollar balance of the account, because of some remaining minor claims, but in November 1989 the two parties agreed to set aside 7 million dollars for these claims".

The magazine suggested that "in an apparent gesture of goodwill, Iran agreed to cash in only 568 million dollars, transferring the remaining 243 milion dollars to the account in The Hague".

Impact of East-West Rapprochement Viewed

LD0402224690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1640 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] One of the most important questions which today faces the Islamic revolution of Iran is: How is the future path to be followed? Conditions in the world are today leading to the emergence of a new era at the level of international relations. Developments in Eastern Europe, in particular the changes in the Soviet Union, have now challenged many of the notions and ideas of the eighties. The world that was divided into two poles—the Western bloc and the Eastern socialist bloc—whereby each tried to build an independent base for themselves and divide the world between each other, is fading.

The superpowers are no longer two blocks confronting each other. They have transformed into countries where they have differences of opinions on the only certain political matters. However, in many cases, they seek to find their common viewpoints to such an extent that, even on the question of the Soviet Union's military intervention in Romania, the United States declared that it agreed on intervention, and in the face of the U.S. attack against Panama, Russia showed a mild reaction.

The question of human rights in the Soviet Union which was publicized for years by the United States and which was considered to be the ugly face of socialism, is now not being raised at all by the West. Even during Moscow's military operations in Azerbaijan, the Americans said simply that they regret the killing of some people but expressed approval with regard to safeguarding the lives of Armenians, passing over the problem in this way. All this goes to show, just as it was also pointed out during the Malta conference, that the cold war between the two sides has to a large extent ended and the two blocs seem to be trying to solve any differences of opinions they may have around the negotiation table or behind closed doors.

It is exactly for this reason that the role of countries which want to move, in the midst of this, with the strategy of independence becomes more crucial. Many political observers believe that this closeness between the two blocs will increase pressure on Third World countries because political tension between the West and East which, in many cases, immuned countries of the Third

World, has now lessened. The world of the future will, more than anything else, pay attention to its economic well-being. Thus observers believe that a new era in the superpowers' lack of attention to the face of the Third World countries will begin; and countries which in the midst of this are internally less stable will be facing more complex political and economic problems.

The role of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the future of its path is worthy of consideration exactly at this point. According to political observers, in the course of future years the present world trend will gradually make its greater pressures felt quite openly in the Third World. Under these circumstances there will be very few powerful currents which could reflect these pressures, from the political standpoint, and use these to create a new movement in the Third World.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Position on Azerbaijan

NC0502172090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jan 90 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "A Double-Standard!"]

[Text] America continues to support Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to resort to force in crushing the ethnic unrest in Soviet Azerbaijan and regards the incidents in Azerbaijan within the context of a conflict between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians. This was stated by U.S. State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler who added: "This is why the situation in the Caucasus is different from the situation in East Europe, and I clearly state that the United States will not favorably regard the dispatch of Soviet troops to Lithuania to crush the extensive independence-seeking sentiments there."

With these remarks, the U.S. State Department actually expressed Washington's double standards concerning problems in the East bloc in the most clear-cut manner possible. Washington has declared that it regards the Azerbaijan problems within the context of a conflict between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians.

This means that a comprehensive propaganda campaign has started in the East and the West against the Azerbaijani Muslims. This campaign is intended to place all the bloody incidents in Azerbaijan within the framework of conflicts between Armenians and Azerbaijanis and to distort and present all the reports from the bloody incidents in Azerbaijan within this framework.

A glance at the recent stands adopted by the mass media and official circles in the West on developments in the East bloc made some think that the West might have been resorting to double standards. However, the impudent statement by the U.S. State Department proved that this is actually the truth.

Until now the West had unconditionally welcomed all the reforms and developments in the East bloc and had reacted favorably. But when the course of events reached Soviet Azerbaijan, it suddenly resorted to double standards, which cannot be justified with by criterion. This can be better understood if we take into consideration Washington's stand on a possible repeat of the Baku incidents in Lithuania. The United States has explicitly stated that it does not favor the dispatch of Soviet troops to Lithuania. This is at a time when Washington continues to support the use of force in Baku, even if this led to the massacre of 3,500 people.

It should be asked: What is the reason for these double standards? Why does the West welcome the developments in Eastern Europe, considering every single cry that is heard to be a cry for freedom, while when it comes to the Soviet Union's Muslim-inhabited republics, it suddenly changes its stand and speaks about a so-called "Islamic hornets' nest?"

When Solidarity was declared illegal in Poland and martial law was established, why did the West adopt a uniform stand and inflict various sanctions and pressure from propaganda on Poland, while in Baku's case—even though the massacre of 3,500 people was not related to the conflict between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis—it portrayed it as such?

But there is no need to turn to the past. Today, Washington supports Moscow's act in Baku and opposes the repetition of such acts in Lithuania. It clarifies this by saying that "the situation in the Caucasus is different from the situation in East Europe." What is the difference between the Caucasus and East Europe? Aren't all of the people there human beings? Don't all of them have the same rights? Are humanistic criteria different for the East and the West, and for Asia and Eurpoe? The answers to all these questions can be clearly seen if we consider the strong inclination of the Muslims toward Islam and the nature of the West's anti-Islamic stand.

The West is terrified of all Islamic movements wherever they may be, even if they are in areas within the boundaries and under the jurisdiction of the West. The West strongly fears the existence of Muslims who, despite 70 years of brainwashing, are still faithful to their religion. Reports about such a phenomenon can undoubtedly have great effects on the hundreds of millions of Muslims who are under the domination of the West in Islamic countries and will undoubtedly be accompanied by Islamic sentiments welling up among them.

It is precisely because of this that the West, and specifically the United States, is trying to portray the incidents in Azerbaijan within the context of a conflict between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis.

It is precisely because of this that they suddenly speak of the Korans and the pictures of the Imams as "arms." It is precisely because of this that Washington, and the West in general, have given Moscow the green light to crush such movements. The West is thinking about what will happen if such sentiments spring up in Islamic countries. It is thinking that the powerful inclinations

toward religion will not be limited only to the borders of the East bloc and will spread to the entire world tomorrow. It is because of these sickening worries that it continuously issues statements and makes remarks supportive of suppressing this trend.

The Soviet leader condoles the relatives of the victims of the Baku incident. But the United States supports the use of force in Baku. This means that the West is encouraging Moscow to continue on this course. In simpler words, the West is encouraging Moscow to intensify its actions against the Soviet Muslims. The Kremlin leadership should understand the meaning of such support and should see the vile objectives that the West, specifically the United States, hides behind its support.

The West is now slyly trying to portray itself as the conductor of freedom-seeking sentiments in the East bloc and is trying to imply to the people in the communist world that they have been able to reach the stage that they have, without many victims, because of the pressures by Washington and the West. The United States wants to imply to the East bloc that it was because of the West that the Soviet leaders did not resort to arms. The United States wants to denigrate the Soviet leaders and to portray its stands as the primary measure by which the Kremlin leaders made their decisions. The United States, and generally speaking, the West, want to show that the roots of the reforms in the East bloc can be found in the West. They want to show that it is because of the West's stand that such developments have taken place in the East. But this implication can dry up the roots of the developments that have taken place in the Soviet Union and in the East bloc. The recent remarks by the U.S. State Department spokesman on the Soviet Union are extremely derogatory because they were meant to show that the Kremlin leaders need Washington's support to deal with their domestic affairs. This is a very repulsive statement in the language of diplomacy, especially if the country which is supported is a superpower.

Radio Baku Urges Students To Resume Classes

LD0602134290 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—College students and staff throughout the Azerbaijan Republic have been urged to stop their boycott and start attending classes, reported Radio Baku today. The radio quoting a statement issued by the deans of colleges and higher educational institutes, called on the students to help realize the goals of martyrs of the popular uprising.

"We beleive that by your coordination you could contribute to the teaching trend in the colleges," the statement said.

Praising the martyrs of Baku especially students who were killed fighting for Soviet troops, the deans expressed hope that bereaved parents would not feel lonely, because the staff and students join them in their grief.

Baku Commandant Orders Closure of Newspaper

NC0502194190 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Baku television reported yesterday evening that the military commandant of the city ordered the closure of the Azeri- and Russian-language newspaper (ASKARET), because it did not publish the communiques released by the military commandant. This is the third newspaper to be closed in Soviet Azerbaijan since the state of emergency was declared in Baku.

Velayati on Helping Resolve Azerbaijan 'Crisis'

NC0202124390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 90 pp 2,6

[Editorial: "Iran Renews Its Call for Assisting USSR in Azerbaijan"]

[Text] In a recent message to his Soviet opposite number Shevardnadze, Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has reiterated the Islamic Republic's willingness to fully cooperate in finding a peaceful solution to the Azerbaijani crisis.

Velayati has also invited the Soviet officials to take a trip to Tehran where the two governments can exchange views and help end the turmoil in the Caucasus Republic of Azerbaijan.

The message once again underscores Tehran's seriousness and interests in giving a hand to Moscow not to get itself bogged down in a persistent crisis in Azerbaijan at this sensitive time of change in the USSR.

The message also emphasizes Iran's adherence to the principle of non-interference in other nations' affairs. Although the welfare of Muslims everywhere across the globe is a prime concern of this Islamic Republic, Iran unquestionably respects the non-interference principle.

Amidst this what is rather regrettable is Moscow's refusal to declare how and when will it be ready to pull out the central government's forces from Azerbaijan in order to ease up the tension in the restive republic.

Since the military crackdown on the Azerbaijani capital of Baku on January 19, scores of people have died and many more have been seriously injured.

TASS reports denied use of weapons against civilians on Thursday. But other Soviet sources have reported the contrary.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, for instance, reporting dozens of cases of hospitalization of civilians due to "accidental" shooting wounds blamed on the military, has already criticized the Armed Forces for their crude handling of the situation in Azerbaijan.

The popular modd in the troubled republic meanwhile is one of the petulance, anger and frustration. Strikes are reportedly going on, consequently grinding to a halt much of Baku's transport and industrial activities.

The Azeris have pledged to continue their anti-central government moves until the Red Army forces pull out of their republic.

It is in the light of these facts that Iran, while fully prepared to cooperate with the USSR in ending the Azerbaijan crisis, wishes to advise the leaders in Moscow to shift to more peaceful ways in Azerbaijan. This the Soviets have to do before they find themselves enmeshed in a situation where they will have to rely only on force to keep their presence in Azerbaijan.

The situation in Azerbaijan calls for a delicate statesmanship, the kind that Presidenbt Gorbachev has very well demonstrated at times. He must launch all possible efforts to address the popular grievances at least side by side with those to maintain peace and calm. He can, for instance, appoint a group comprising the central government's and Azerbaijani representatives to diligently study the related problems and come up with suggestions that can best address them. This will assure the Azeris that they do not receive a bloody nose only and that the central government wishes to restore their rights too.

The Kremlin leaders are certainly aware that given their long suppresison, the Azeri Muslims too should benefit from glasnost. Overreliance on political or military pressure to quell the unrest will not only endanger glasnost but will also add up to popular dissent. This has been experienced in various countries around the world.

Majles Deputies' Use of Azeri Criticized

NC0602160590 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Speech in Azeri?"]

[Text] To express sympathy for the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan is an Islamic, logical, and humanitarian act. However, there is no reason that the sympathy and support expressed by some of Islamic Majles deputies should have been extended in the Turkic language of Azeri. Yesterday and today, two Majles deputies spoke in Azeri in their pre-agenda speeches.

If we accept deputies' being authorized to speak in other languages at the Islamic Majles as a norm, then there will be no end to this. For example, deputies from the Arabic-speaking areas will address the oppressed people of the occupied areas in Arabic, Kurdish deputies will speak in Kurdish, and so on. This attitude is objectionable from the political point of view, as well as with regard to national unity. It is also opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution.

Article 15 of the Constitution states: "The common language and script of the Iranian people is Farsi." This means that in the Islamic Majles, which is a national organization common to all the people of our country, it is mandatory that the Persian language be used. It is hoped that the esteemed executive committee of the Islamic Majles will pay the necessary attention to this matter.

Paper Views Soviet Mediation in Peace Talks

NC0502153990 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jan 90 p 16

[Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri commentary: "The Soviet Union and Its Choice in the Trend of Developments"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union does not have the necessary clout to secure the implementation of Resolution 598, as this requires the cooperation of Iraq—unless, of course, some sort of agreement was reached between Gorbachev and Bush at the Malta summit. For quite some time now, the Soviets have been losing the influence they had in various parts of the world, and present Soviet policy is based on a recognition of this fact.

The Kremlin cannot continue its past policy of wielding increasing influence and gaining more footholds around the world. The defeat of communism and the disarray in the Soviet Union itself and among its former and current satellites mean that the Kremlin will not be able to pursue such a policy for a long time to come. The Soviets have lost much of their influence in the Middle East as well. The departure of Soviet experts from the region and reduced military and political support to Soviet allies have created new regional and international balances. [passage omitted]

The emergence of these new balances and the efforts to place Iran within new limits to rein in the Islamic revolution can never be ignored even for a moment. From the Western point of view, an "unfettered" Islamic Republic of Iran is to be considered a potent danger. Despite its extensive and continuous efforts thus far, the West has not been able to have any effect on the Islamic revolution's values. It appears therefore that vigilance toward every change in tactics is more necessary than ever.

Even if we accept that the recent nationalistic unrest in Azerbaijan was the reason for the entry of the Soviet troops to the region and the subsequent violent repression of the people—and of course this definitely is not the case—the Soviet Union seems to have lost in this round. Taking sides in a conflict in which both sides are its own citizens will leave behind a legacy of destructive consequences which will rear its head in the future.

In addition, the Kremlin has itself strengthened Western influence. In the short term the West may very well continue to hail Moscow's actions, but the Soviet Union will continue to live with the fear that the West may use the actions against it. Moreover, the Kremlin has set itself against the vast body of Muslims in the Soviet

Union, when it would only have gained from an amicable settlement of the issue.

The Soviet Union will certainly not secure a lasting solution if it continues to use force for a prolonged period of time, as it did in the past, and manages to silence a few million Muslims and Azeris. What Gorbachev needs is not the concurrence of the White House with his actions. The rejection of communist domination is a phenomenon which itself is capable of attracting the support of the people, as the imam of the nation once told the Soviet leadership.

In view of its ruthlessness toward the Azerbaijani Muslims, the Soviet Union believes it has, by proposing a plan for mediation between Iran and Iraq, incapacitated the Iranian lever of support to the Muslims on that side of "the Aras." As far as Iran is concerned, its acceptance of this offer of mediation, which would of course be under the auspices of the United Nations, is only evidence of its goodwill.

This is because, as mentioned above, the Soviet Union is not capable of bringing the side which initiated the war into compliance with the UN Security Council resolution. For its part, the Islamic Republic will not renege on its own conditions, which have already been accepted by all international organizations. However if the Soviet mediation is linked to an agreement between the superpowers, Moscow should have realized by now that the principles and values of the Islamic revolution are not commodities to be bartered or compromised. Refusing to be drawn into the traps of such balances, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself dutybound to support the Muslims, and this is one lesson that the Westerners have already learned.

President Sends Message to Turkey's Ozal

NC0802070390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Mo'ayyeri, the president's adviser for international affairs, delivered a written message from our president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to Turkish President Mr. Turgut Ozal yesterday.

IRNA reports that in this message Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has expressed satisfaction with the expansion of the two countries' relations over the past few years and, while pointing to the political determination of Iran and Turkey to expand their relations, he has emphasized that there are more favorable grounds for expansion and consolidation of relations than ever before.

In his message to Mr. Turgut Ozal, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani adds: The reciprocal meetings during the past few months between the two countries' officials on various levels have been a significant step toward consolidating the two countries' relations. I am sure that continuing more such meetings will not only have the effect of bringing the two countries' views closer, but will also be effective in expanding cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey in the political, economic and cultural fields.

Mr. Mo'ayyeri, who is the first Iranian official to visit Turkey after Mr. Ozal's election as Turkish president, held talks with the Turkish president on ways to further activate the two countries' relations and on regional and international issues. During this meeting, elevating the level of relations and implementing agreements in various fields were discussed; this implementation was emphasized.

Border Trade Agreement With Turkey Signed

NC0802073490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] As part of implementing protocols on border trade in common Iranian-Turkish commercial border areas, a protocol was signed between Iranian and Turkish officials under which the second Iranian-Turkish joint market is to become operational in the border area in West Azarbayjan next month.

The Central News Unit reports that at the end of the talks between the two countries' border provinces' officials in Khoy, an agreement on opening the new joint border market in Razi area in Khoy was signed.

According to this report, border residents and peddlars of both countries can—without superfluous commercial and customs formalities—exchange their products worth up to $50,000 either on a cash or barter basis.

The first joint border market between the two countries became operational in Dey [month beginning 22 December] in Sari Su in Maku, and peddlars in neighboring border areas can exchange up to $50,000 annually on a barter basis.

Daily Criticizes 'Blasphemous' Turkish Press

NC0502193490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Jan 90 p 9

[Unattributed commentary: "The Shadows of Laicism"]

[Text] Many observers believe that with the end of the Turkish 30-year military domination of the country's 50 million people, the defense of laicism and irreligion in that Islamic country will lose its luster and more possibilities will emerge for religion to surface in that country.

The military, which kept power in Turkey for three decades through both bloodless or violent coups, and particularly the generals who ruled Turkey since 1980, have been famous among the country's people and politicians as the defenders of laicism and the devoted followers of Ataturk in the fight against religion and especially against Islam. Throughout these years, they used all possible means to forward their political objectives, and the Turkish newspapers, mass media, and propaganda machinery have been the most effective tools in their hands for obtaining these objectives.

We must ask what the oppressed Turkish people gained from Ataturk's wretched mission so that there are still some today who will do anything to continue along that same corrupt path.

The fight against Islam and its lofty ideals; the prevelance of licentiousness; the opposition to Islamic garb worn by Muslim sisters in government offices, universities, and schools; the publication of insulting material against Islamic personalities and against the beliefs of the Muslims: these have been the standard methods used by the Turkish press during the 30 years of rule by the coupist generals in Turkey. The line that the Turkish militarists were following with the help of that country's mass media and their extensive resources in fulfilling their anti-Islamic policies against the Islamic society of that country was so entrenched that one could not expect a change in the anti-Islamic stand of the Turkish press to take place in the space of a few weeks after the end of that despotic domination.

This truth can be better understood when we know, despite his efforts to feign support for religion and despite his sham respect for the beliefs of Turkish Muslims, that the current civilian president of Turkey does not appear to want the anti-Islamic trend in that country to end. It is under such conditions that "legal steps" are taken against Muslim women wearing Islamic garb in Turkey. The insults against Islamic sanctities in the newspapers and the publication of obscene remarks against Islamic dignitaries are justified under the mask of "the freedom of the pen and speech" and under the label of "democracy."

The effects of the soul-rending demise of the great leader of the Islamic world, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, on the Islamic society of Turkey and the reaction of the Turkish press to this clearly showed the great distance between the Turkish people's understanding of Islam and the views of the Turkish press.

Those who are today at the head of the Turkish press and mass media were placed there by the militarists. They consider their sole mission to be to follow the atheistic and detested path and methods of Ataturk. Such elements, who are far removed from the Islamic and national culture of the people of Turkey, cannot be expected to understand the ethics and beliefs of the people and to respect their religious beliefs. Naturally the items published in these newspapers and magazines clearly reveal the true personality and identity of the heads of these servile media to the people of Turkey and Iran and to all those who consider the behavior and outlook of people to be the true reflection of their identity and personality.

For years the Turkish people have not had the slightest respect for many Turkish newspapers because of these newspapers' unconditional adherence to blasphemous laic ideals. The people of Turkey consider such newspapers to be the shadows of laicism, the same shadows which have tried for 70 years to block the rays of the sun of divine ideals from shining on the bodies and souls of the Muslim people of Turkey.

KEYHAN Calls For Expulsion of BBC Correspondent

LD0402152790 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN Sunday suggested that the Islamic government deport the BBC reporter in Tehran, in retaliation for deportation notices to a reporter of the Iranian radio and television in London who is among a group of nine to have received the notice.

The British Government says they are to be deported because of what it calls their private contacts with organizations and individuals who are suppoters of the Islamic government.

The daily's columnist Omid Masudi said, as long as Iranian reporters abroad feel insecure because of factual reporting about what is happening in the West there is no justification for the stay in Iran of the BBC reporter for "spying and slanted reporting."

The article reminded the swaying power of the print and broadcast media throughout the world as the most modern of all political weapons for fighting, and said that the British Government has decided to deport the Iranian reporter "so that henceforward only incorrect news reports will be dispatched to Tehran."

Editorial Says 'Awn Seeks French, Iraqi Support

LD0702152890 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial Wednesday commented on the renewal of fighting between the two Maronite factions in East Beirut and said the deposed army commander Michel 'Awn's faction is mustering support from an alliance of France and Iraq.

"'Awn's attack on his own natural ally marks the deposed general's overstretched ambitions and desire for monopoly of power with no regard for the cost human or political it may incur," it said.

The daily added: "Seemingly the general's unquenched thirst for power has got out of bounds to the extent that it is drawing harsh criticisms from many corners."

It referred to the American view of the Beirut confict that 'Awn is the responsible party in this round of fighting and the call by the U.S. envoy in Damascus for his ouster from the nation's political scene and said "in Lebanon no faction can involve itself in any war, large scale or small, without foreign backing."

The paper added 'Awn's adventurism in Lebanon is "a very good example of imperialist powers' habit of poking their noses in Lebanese affairs through proxy armed agents."

"If ever Washington is after seeing the rebellious general bow out of Lebanese politics, it should direct [word indistinct] at Paris and Baghdad, the two main sources of all kinds of support for the general," the TEHRAN TIMES pointed out.

Assuring that 'Awn is alien to diplomatic language, the editorial in conclusion, urged those who are opposed to such blind conflicts to "do more than simply indulge in idle talk if they genuinely desire and end to them."

Velayati, Pakistani Scholar Discuss Kashmir Muslims

LD0502114490 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—A prominent Pakistani scholar Seyyed Eftekhar Hussain Naqavi appreciated the "brave position" of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the Kashmir Muslims, in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday. Naqavi also presented a report to the foreign minister on the situation of Muslims in Pakistan.

Velayati, while elaborating on Iran's commitment based on the guidelines of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni in solving the problems of the Muslim umma, stressed the unity and solidarity of Muslims against the enemies' plots.

TEHRAN TIMES on Jammu, Kashmir 'Crisis'

NC0602145590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Singh Faces His First Serious Challenge"]

[Text] The Indian government has cancelled the passes of all foreign journalists in Srinagar ordering them to leave Kashmir. New Delhi has decided to allow only Indian journalists to operate in the troubled state.

In fact the events unfolding in Jammu and Kashmir over the last two weeks have indeed changed the restive state into the first yardstick to size up Prime Minister V.P. Singh's clout in resolving a problem capable of taking on national dimensions.

Singh, who leads the National Front Coalition, managed to defeat the powerful Congress Party and assumed power last November.

Given the vast and very complicated nature of Indian problems he was already off to a bad start and did not seem to stand a big chance to resolve the country's formidable problems. Yet, most observers never suspected that in his first show of power the Indian premier would try to cow Moslems in that country by unleashing the Armed Forces, with authority to shoot and kill them.

The whole episode is a bit too ironic as the Indian Moslem community was a major factor in securing Singh's victory in the elections.

No one however calls for the violation of Indian sovereignty over its territory. Yet, to solve the Kashmiri crisis needs more than intimidation and bullet.

The Indian government has not been that clean in its handling of the Kashmiri issue. Encouraging Indian settlements in the pre-dominantly Moslem Kashmir in the hope of disturbing the state's population structure, for instance, has been among the most vexing factors alienating the Kashmiris from New Delhi.

It is in fact binding on the government in this so-called most democratic Third World country to make serious attempts at curbing racist moves prejudicial to the Moslems in the nation, let alone fuel such moves.

The leaders in New Delhi should be cognizant of the fact that an eruption in the racist proclivities in that country is potentially capable of hurling the nation into catastrophies of horrifying dimensions. This can be readily drawn against a backdrop of the special social structure in this overpopulated country, that such a strife can all too easily turn into a most violent civil war at the national level.

Meanwhile, new polarization in the region somewhat encourages a high-intensity cold warfare between India and Pakistan. Leaders in both Islamabad and New Delhi should be heedful of such geopolitical groupings that are coming up anew.

Moscow's open support for New Delhi on the one hand and Beijing's backing for Islamabad potentially forebode wars similar to the three bloody and fruitless battles the two neighboring nations fought in the 50s and 60s.

Natural Gas Exports to USSR To Begin in Apr

LD0602202990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company, in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Rasht, announced: Beginning 1 April 1990, if the Soviet Union is ready, we will export 8 million cubic meters of natural gas daily to the Soviet Union. Concerning the priorities in gas distribution to different parts of the country, the managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company also said: The priorities will be decided on the basis of ending deprivation, temperatures of various areas, the existence of industries, and the closeness of cities to the national gas pipeline.

Petroleum Minister Commissions New Gas Project

LD0602123790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Simultaneous with the auspicious occasion of the Islamic revolution dawn, the project of linking the towns of Sowme'esara and Fuman to the gas network and the first phase of laying gas pipelines in Rasht was commissioned by Petroleum Minister Mr Gholamreza

Aqazadeh at the Lakan district of Rasht this morning. According to a report of the Central News Unit, this project was implemented by the workers, engineers, and experts of the Iranian National Gas Company at the credit alloction of 35 billion rials. It is necessary to mention that thanks to the allocation of 3,215 gas meters, more than 5,000 residential, administrative, and commercial units of these towns are now enjoying the comfort provided by natural gas.

At the opening of the ceremony of supplying gas to Sowme'esara, Fuman, and Rasht, the petroleum minister announced in an exclusive interview given to the Central News correspondent: During the first five-year economic, social and cultural development plan, 200 towns in the country, including all the towns of Gilan Province, will be linked to the gas networks; and 640 billion billion [as heard] rials will be invested in implementing these projects.

Views Upcoming Projects

LD0602203190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh, who has gone to Gilan to commission the gas distribution networks in the towns of Some'ehsara and Fuman and the first phase of the gas project in Rasht, talked in an interview with our reporter about the progress of work in oil exploration in the Caspian Sea, repairing the oil installations which were damaged [in the course of the war], making use of the gas deposits in the Persian Gulf, and petrochemical projects throughout the country. Please pay attention to the report of our correspondent about this interview:

[Unidentified reporter] The petroleum minister of our country gave an exclusive interview to the Central News Unit correspondent in Rasht in which he referred to the progress of oil exploration work in the Caspian Sea. He said that with the collaboration of Finland, during the next three years the assembling of drilling rigs and the construction of the platforms needed for this project will be carried out inside the country.

Regarding the proper use of the gas deposits in the Persian Gulf which, at the moment, are being burned without any benefit, he said: During the government five-year plan, in order to make proper use of these resources, as well as to implement the joint Iran-Qatar project regarding the northern Pars deposits, $3.2 billion will be invested.

The petroleum minister added that about $8.4 billion will be invested in the construction of oil refineries, in oil exploration, and in increasing the capacity of oil product production, as well as in repairing damaged installations.

In another part of this interview, announcing that as of March 1990 the production of urea fertilizer will be increased and exported, as well as providing for domestic needs, the oil minister said: At the moment, many petrochemical projects are being implemented in the country and we hope that each year we can bring one or two major petrochemical projects on line. It is expected that by the end of 1993 the value of the petrochemical and chemical products of our country will exceed $3 billion dollars.

The oil minister also announced that in the course of the first five-year plan of the country, 200 cities, including all the towns in Gilan Province, will come under the cover of the gas distribution network. Six hundred and forty billion rials have been allocated for this work.

Petrochemical Industry Boosts Output

LD0602140490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] In the wake of reconstruction of the petrochemical units damaged during the imposed war, the country's petrochemical production increased to over 2 million tonnes this year, which is five times greater than last year's production. The deputy petroleum minister and the managing director of Iran's national petrochemical industries said in an interview given to reporters today: This company's revenue from the sale of 2 million tonnes of chemical and petrochemical products was over 60 billion rials this year. He added: Since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1989] the company has produced 1 million tonnes of fertilizer, 400,000 tonnes of sulphur, 150,000 tonnes of soda ash used in the glass industry, 25,000 tonnes of softeners, 18,000 tonnes of industrial soot required by the tire industry, and some other products. Some 50,000 tonnes of ammonia and 300,000 tonnes of sulphur have been exported during this period.

He added: So far Iran has invested 15 billion rials in reconstructing its existing petrochemical projects, and it intends to invest 400 billion rials in the petrochemical industry during the five-year plan, about 65 percent of which will be in foreign currency. He went on: The foreign currency requirement for the expansion of the petrochemical industries in the five-year plan is $4 billion, half of which will be invested by utilizing foreign facilities. In return for the sale and export of about 20 percent of the future products of the new petrochemical industries to foreign clients, the company's debts will be repaid within six years.

According to a report of the Central News unit, Iran plans to build a $1.5 billion petrochemical complex in Arak, a $250 million complex in Esfahan, a $1 billion complex in Tabriz, and a $450 million complex in Khorasan during the five-year plan. In this connection $1 billion dollars have been invested in Arak and over 200 million dollars in Esfahan's complex so far.

Mirzadeh Speaks on Mines, Industry Investment

LD0602140690 Tehran IRNA in English 1156 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kerman, Feb. 6, IRNA—Some dlrs., 32 bn [billion] will be invested in industry and mines sector

throughout the country within the first five year plan, said Vice-President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh here Monday.

Mirzadeh is currently here to inspect several economic and social projects in this southern province.

Kerman can play an important role in industrial production and export of non-oil goods, he said, adding that at present 40 percent of the non-oil exports of the country belongs to this province.

It is estimated to gain some dlrs. 18 bn through export of non-oil commodities within the five-year plan, he said.

In its Monday session, the economic commission of the government decided to return ten percent of the non-oil exports earning of each province to the same province, he said. With regard to the important share Kerman has in non-oil exports, it will gain a considerable amount to use for its economic and social development projects.

Nepal

Prime Minister Defends Partyless System at Rally

BK2901010090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2123 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 28 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha on Sunday [28 January] defended the partyless panchayat (parliament) system as committed to ensuring that all citizens enjoyed equal civic rights.

"The panchayat system is capable of making timely changes and protecting and preserving the national self-respect (and) unity... on a continuing basis," he said.

Addressing a rally of some 50,000 people organized jointly by the Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur district panchayats (councils) at the open-air theatre here, Mr. Shrestha said there was "absolutely no need to be confused or unnerved by the anti-system activities of some individuals." He said that these individuals "have been at pains to impress upon the people that the recent changes in certain parts of the world are bound to have their impact on Nepal. This is nothing but a clear case of day-dreaming."

Mr. Shrestha, his cabinet, and rank-and-file party members participated in the event, which was intended to show the strength of the partyless system, observers said.

"It is definitely not good, nor is it a democratic exercise in the true sense, to accuse the system of unfounded and baseless things when it is crystal clear that the system... is democratic, liberal and open to all," Mr. Shrestha said. He said it was "ridiculous" and "irresponsible" that some critics "are inviting extraneous intervention in the hope of forcing their version of democracy on the people when there already exists a working democracy."

Some rally-goers chanted "down with the foreign agents." Several speakers at the mass meeting strongly condemned efforts allegedly being made by some Indian politicians to harm Nepalese interests.

Nepal and India have been locked in a 10-month dispute over trade and transit issues that has seen India block most routes into the landlocked kingdom, disrupting Nepal's economy and causing shortages of basic goods.

Former Nepal Prime Minister K.N. Bista told the gathering that certain anti-social elements were seeking to undermine people's faith in the system.

Several speakers strongly criticized Chandra Shekhar, an Indian parliamentarian and member of New Delhi's ruling United Front government, who on January 18 pledged support for the impending effort by Nepal's outlawed political parties to revive the multi-party system.

Mr. Shekhar was among some 10 Indian MP's [members of parliament] from four major political parties, including Congress (I), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India-Marxist and the rightwing Bharatiya Janata (People's) Party, who participated in the convention of the banned Nepali Congress Party (NCP), the first held in 29 years under the current panchayat system.

Nearly all the Indian MP's said they supported the NCP's drive, planned to start February 18, when Nepal officially celebrates national democracy day.

Analysts said the main objective of the panchayat rally was to show down [as received] the multi-party campaigners.

But none of the speakers at the rally attacked the Indian Government headed by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in an apparent bid to preserve the current atmosphere of Indo-Nepalese amity in the run-up to talks scheduled for early February.

AFP Details Clampdown on Political Parties

BK0702075990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 7 Feb 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 7 (AFP)—More than 200 members of outlawed political parties have been arrested in the last two days in a pre-emptive strike against a mass movement protesting Nepal's partyless system, party sources said Wednesday. Those arrested included Yoga Prasad Upadyaya and Basu Risal, both deputy general secretaries of the country's largest pro-democratic party, the outlawed Nepali Congress, sources in the banned parties said.

Authorities also raided several districts outside Kathmandu, including Narayani, about 140 kilometers (90 miles) south of the capital and Biratnagar township, 290

kilometers (180 miles) southeast of here. More than 70 activists were arrested in the Narayani District alone, a Nepalese Home Ministry official said.

The arrests come ahead of a February 18 movement to end the Panchayat (council or partyless) system, but many activists have gone under ground and the movement would go ahead, party sources said.

The banned parties have also announced a strike February 19 at all schools and colleges and on public transport to press their demands.

The Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front, which receive support from both pro-democracy and leftist students, have stirred students nationwide to protest against the Nepalese political system and demand a multi-party system.

Nepal, the world's only Hindu Kingdom, is governed by directly elected local and national councils, but King Birendra wields supreme political and executive power. The Nepali Congress supports a constitutional monarchy.

The Panchayat camp meanwhile has begun to stir its own 480,000 activists with rallies in districts outside Kathmandu to denounce the demands of the outlawed parties, whom they accuse of receiving help from a "foreign power."

The government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha meanwhile has restricted meetings and seminars. Mr. Shrestha has defended the partyless system as "democratic, liberal and open to all."

Antigovernment Weekly Seized in Kathmandu 28 Jan

BK2801085090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 28 (AFP)—The administration in the Nepalese capital has seized Sunday's edition of the anti-government weekly THE DESHANTAR for publishing "objectionable materials," an official said.

Police rushed to the press of THE DESHANTER (Inside Country News) early Sunday and seized bundles of the newspaper before they could be sent to districts outside Kathmandu, according to its chief editor, Kishore Nepali.

The local administration also seized copies of the popular vernacular from newsstands and hawkers in the capital, he said.

The Sunday newspaper is a strong critic of the government and has campaigned for a multiparty system of government and full-fledged democracy to replace the partyless Panchayat [Parliament] system, political observers said.

"Saturday late night police ransacked (our) printing press and took away all the transcriptions for censorship," Mr. Nepali said. "The local administration has been censoring time and again the transcription of the paper," he added.

It was not immediately known whether legal action would be taken against Mr. Nepali or the paper's publisher.

Building of Television Production Complex Begins

BK3101145890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 31 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha on Wednesday [31 January] laid the cornerstone of a modern studio and programme production complex for state-run Nepal Television (NTV).

Mr. Shrestha told guests and reporters that the NTV complex, located in the grounds of the Singha Durbar Central Secretariat here, would cost 11.6 million Nepalese rupees (410,000 dollars) and take two years to build.

NTV, which celebrated its fifth anniversary on Tuesday, plans to reach the whole country within the next five years, Chairman Nir Bikram Shah. [sentence as received]

News Director Durga Nath Sharma said it also planned during the same period to expand from the current 31 and a half hours on air a week to a weekly 44 hours of programming, including sport and films.

This would enable it to compete with the more popular and sophisticated Doordarshan Television of India.

When set up in 1985, NTV served only Kathmandu.

Today it reaches 17 per cent of the country's 18.7 million people with transmission stations at Biratnagar, 290 kilometres (180 miles) southeast of here, and in the Pokhara Valley, 225 kms (140 miles) west of Kathmandu.

Mr. Shrestha, in his address, stressed the important role of television in education and entertainment and said that the government saw NTV playing a key role in both areas and in helping in the country's development.

Pakistan

MQM Calls 7 Feb Strike in Karachi; 55 Killed

Leaders Condemn Violence

BK0702044390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Sind chief minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, has expressed his grief and sorrow over the incidents of

violence in Karachi. In a statement in Karachi last night, he said that at this juncture, when the national security needs complete unity among the people, the negative approach of the defeated elements have created conditions contrary to peace and tranquillity. Attempts are being made to change the people's opinion in Sind by force, threats, and conspiracy. The activities of the miscreants have put the life and property of the people in danger. The chief minister said the democratic government has always adopted a policy of accommodation and forbearance, but an organization despite being a minority has always adopted the path of confrontation. He said in view of the gravity of the situation the law enforcement agencies have been directed to take concrete steps and orders have been given to act without discrimination against miscreants and criminals.

Federal Health Minister and National Assembly member from Karachi Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi has called upon the people of Karachi and Hyderabad to strengthen the democratic process by maintaining the atmosphere of peace and amity. Speaking on radio and television in a provincial program last evening, he said that Karachi and Hyderabad have already been badly affected by demonstrations and strikes and cannot afford to tolerate further such a situation. Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi said that the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] has asked people in Karachi to come out on the streets of Karachi today and observe a strike against unfounded allegations. A group in Sind also called upon Sindhi-speaking people to observe Black Day today. The minister said that people have the democratic right to hold rallies, processions, and call strikes, but they should be avoided if people's life and property are affected by them. He invited [MQM chief] Altaf Hussain and other leaders to negotiation to seek a solution to problems in an atmosphere of accommodation and understanding.

Twelve members of the National Assembly belonging to Sind have condemned the acts of violence in Karachi and Hyderabad. In a joint statement issued in Karachi, they expressed sympathy with the families of those killed and injured in the violence during the last three days. They also supported measures taken by the provincial government for restoration of peace and for the arrest of the involved criminals.

Strike 'Unprecedented' in Scope

BK0702135190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1342 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Karachi, Feb 7 (AFP)—At least 25 people were killed and 100 injured as security forces and demonstrators fought gunbattles in Pakistan's largest city Wednesday [7 February] during an opposition-called general strike, medical sources and witnesses said. The dead included a soldier, four policemen and a doctor, ambulance workers said, as shooting, stabbing and arson continued in the southern Sind Province port. [passage omitted]

Witnesses said the strike was "total and unprecedented" in scope, with industry, commercial centers, bazaars, schools and government offices closed and the streets empty of traffic. [passage omitted]

Reports said unidentified gunmen shot dead four policemen in different locations while troops, called in overnight, opened fire to clear main roads and ensure that the railway station and airport remained operative. The dead included a doctor who was leaving under police escort for emergency duty at her state-run hospital, sources said. She was hit by gunfire from an apartment roof aimed at the police.

One soldier died and an army officer was injured in another clash at Malir District in central Karachi, the sources said.

Most of the civilian casualties were in the areas of Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, New Karachi, Gulbahar and Manghopir, where shooting and stabbing continued intermittently, residents reported.

Police beat three press photographers with rifle butts and seized their cameras to prevent them from taking pictures of the troubles, according to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE photographer Zafar Ahmed, one of the three. Mr. Ahmed and THE NATION photographer Hassan Sangrami were treated in hospital and released after the beating, but ASSOCIATED PRESS photographer Zahid Hussain remained hospitalised with a serious head wound.

Flights were seriously delayed and several were diverted from Karachi to other airports as airport staff failed to turn up for duty. Sources said Karachi Port was also crippled despite efforts by troops to open an access road.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed

BK0702155790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The strike call given by the Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM] for today in Karachi resulted in violent incidents. According to official sources, 25 people, including policemen, have been killed in sniper firing. The bodies of those killed have been taken to Martyr Abbasi Hospital, Jinnah Hospital, and Sind Government Hospital. According to these sources, 80 injured people have been admitted to various hospitals of the city. More than 24 vehicles were set on fire.

The situation is tense in Landhi, New Karachi, Nazimabad, Federal B Area, Liaqatabad, S Road, and Malir. There were reports of stone pelting, stabbing, and shooting, besides burning of tires and barricading of roads to prevent traffic flow. Public and private transport was virtually at a standstill. Traffic was, however, plying on Shahara-E-Faysal road leading to the airport. All shops and business centers—except at Site, Layari, and some parts of Malir—remained closed in the city.

The situation continues to be tense in the area where demonstrators clashed with the police yesterday around the densely populated Pakistan Chowk, Haqqani Chowk, and Arambagh. Police, rangers, and troops were extensively patrolling the affected areas.

The Karachi administration has announced that indefinite curfew has been imposed in the entire Karachi Central District with immediate effect.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan told the National Assembly that the MQM's strike call today in Karachi evoked partial response because the day-to-day business in most parts of the city was carried out normally. He said the situation in Layari, Landhi, and the industrial areas of Site was normal. The interior minister said soon after receiving indications that the strike had been foiled, MQM extremists took to the streets. They started threatening people to force them to join in the strike. They pelted vehicles with stones, forcibly closed shops, and set fire to many buildings, including a bank. Pakistan People's Party's flags were flying on some of the buildings set on fire.

The interior minister made the statement in response to an allegation by Sayeeda Abida Hussain that the situation was deliberately created by the government to foil the strike. Sayeeda Abida Hussain said that the strike has been successful. Later, the entire opposition staged a walkout in protest.

Bhutto Blames Opposition

BK0802004090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0035 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 8 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto indirectly accused the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) on Wednesday [7 February] of being responsible for the deaths of 41 people in violence in Karachi.

Without once mentioning the MQM by name, Ms. Bhutto said a "certain political group" had "resorted to violence, killing and wounding so many innocent people in Karachi," the capital of Sind Province.

She also blamed the group for "violating" national unity at a time when the country needed to stand together faced as it was with a crisis over Kashmir, where Moslem militants are waging a violent campaign for secession from India. [passage omitted]

In a statement the prime minister said she took exception to the group's "flagrant breach" of an agreement made 48 hours earlier at a meeting of all political parties on the Kashmir issue not to resort to violence during the strike the MQM called in Karachi.

She also blamed other opposition parties for supporting "the illegal acts of this group" at a time when the nation needed unity and solidarity.

At least 125 people were arrested in Karachi after day-long violence in which 41 people were killed and 130 were injured as security forces and demonstrators fought gunbattles during the strike, an official source said.

In her first official statement since giving birth to a daughter January 25, Ms Bhutto appealed to "all patriotic citizens in Karachi" to shun violence and help the government restore peace.

Ms Bhutto also said she was determined to see all those involved in the violence brought to justice, and called on the Sind government to "take all necessary steps" to re-establish law and order. [passage omitted]

More than two dozen vehicles were set ablaze as street fighting pitted supporters of the strike against opponents as well as police and troops who tried to remove roadblocks, witnesses said.

Reports said unidentified gunmen shot dead four policemen in different locations while troops, called in overnight, opened fire to clear main roads and ensure that the railway station and airport remained operative.

Security forces later clamped an indefinite curfew on central Karachi's troubled areas, residents said.

Leaders of the Combined Opposition Parties and Islamic Democratic Alliance president Nawaz Sharif have announced their support for the MQM call.

Bhutto Appeals for Peace

BK0802033490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of valuable lives in Karachi yesterday. She appealed to all patriotic citizens in Karachi to shun violence and strengthen hands of the government in restoring peace and normalcy.

The prime minister has taken serious exception to the flagrant breach of assurance by a certain political group to the government that law and order would be maintained in the city during the strike. It is quite unfortunate that members of that particular group, who had resolved three days ago to stand by the government on the Kashmir issue, resorted to violence and took law unto their hands. Ms Benazir Bhutto said it was unbecoming on the part of opposition parties to support unlawful activities of a particular group in Karachi when the nation is in dire need of solidarity and unity. She expressed her determination to bring to book all those who are responsible for those very sad incidents.

She has directed the Sind government to take all the necessary measures to immediately restore law and order in the city. The Sind government, she added, would take all steps for protection of valuable lives and property in Karachi.

Commissioner Issues Press Note

BK0802025490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] In a press note, the commissioner of Karachi said that in the course of a strike held in Karachi yesterday on the appeal of an ethnic organization, MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], there were major violent incidents resulting in the loss of human lives and damage to property. The press note says miscreants having links with a particular organization indulged in rampages in the four districts and disregarded the law enforcement agencies.

Police and other law enforcement agencies were attacked, and many of their members were killed or wounded. Gulbahar, Liaqatabad, and Sadar police stations were attacked. Law enforcement agencies had to intervene in several areas of the division to prevent further loss of human lives and to protect properties. The press note says the number of dead is 25, including five belonging to police and other law enforcement agencies. Eighty persons were injured. Quoting reliable sources, ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN has reported that the number of dead in the violent incidents has risen to 38 and the injured to 130.

Karachi administration has announced that indefinite curfew has been imposed in (Tennis Street), Aram Bagh, Nabi Baksh, and Mehmoodabad police station limits in Karachi South District, and Landi and Korangi in District East.

10-Day Mourning Period Begins

BK0802095890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Karachi, Feb 8 (AFP)—A 10-day mourning period began in Karachi Thursday [8 February] as the death toll in Wednesday's violence-marred opposition strike rose to 44 and troops in battle gear equipped with shoot on sight orders patrolled troubled areas, witnesses said.

Half of the city of eight million people was under a round-the-clock curfew clamped by the administration after serious clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

The 41 said to have been killed by the end of the day included five policemen and a lieutenant of the Pakistan Army while a major and several soldiers of the paramilitary Rangers were among more than 150 injured, officials said.

Three more bodies were recovered Thursday raising the toll to 44 killed. The casualties were caused mostly in gunfire that began at daybreak and continued throughout the day.

Business activity was minimal Thursday and attendance at factories and offices was thin in the aftermath of the strike called by the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). Even in the areas out of curfew restrictions, traffic remained thin until the afternoon, sources here said.

People were in the grip of shock and tension was still high as the MQM, which called the strike "very successful" and the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were still locked in a battle of words.

MQM chief Altaf Hussain blamed the PPP for resorting to "violence and terrorism to punish the people of Karachi who extended full support" to the strike call.

"They did not spare even the newsmen," he said referring to the three press photographers including AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE's Zafar Ahmed, who were beaten by police while covering the demonstration.

Prime minister Benazir Bhutto pledged earlier to bring to book "all those responsible for the sad incidents", criticising the opposition parties for "supporting the unlawful activities of a particular group in Karachi at a time when the nation was in dire need of solidarity and unity."

President Expresses Concern

BK0802145090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan was summoned to Islamabad today by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for a briefing on the situation now prevailing in Karachi. The interior minister briefed the president on the tragic incidents in Karachi and informed him of the steps the government is taking to check further lawlessness.

The president expressed profound grief and concern over violent incidents in Karachi, which resulted in heavy loss of innocent lives and damage to property. The president described the situation as extremely serious and emphasized that providing protection to the lives and property of the people is the duty of all civilized persons, especially the elected government. political party and to exclude it from the mainstream of national politics by branding it as a fascist group.

Opposition, President Meet

BK0802160890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] A delegation of the Combined Opposition Parties [COP] called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and exchanged views with him on the situation in Karachi. Expressing their viewpoints, they alleged that violent activities have been carried out under a plan to isolate a specific political party and exclude it from the mainstream of national politics by branding it as a fascist group.

During the discussions, several proposals were made for the government's consideration on normalizing the situation and preventing the recurrence of such a tragic situation.

The COP delegation, which was led by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, consisted of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Mohammad Ali Khan Hoti, Kazi Ghulam Ahmad Baluch, Kazi Qadeer Gul Khan, Begum Syeda Abida Hussain, Maula Saeed Ahmad, Professor Khurshid Ahmad, and Syed Mazhar Ali.

Curfew Widened

BK0802162490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Karachi, Feb 8 (AFP)—At least 11 people were killed in Karachi Thursday [8 February], raising the death toll in two days of violence to 55 and forcing authorities to clamp curfews on more areas, hospital sources and officials said.

More than two-thirds of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, was now under indefinite curfew and troops in battle dress patrolled the sensitive localities.

The 11 were killed in various incidents either by unidentified armed men or by security forces who had been given the order to shoot curfew violators on sight, witnesses said.

Some residents defied the curfew imposed on central Karachi overnight after violence surrounding an opposition-called general strike Wednesday left 44 people dead and more than 150 injured.

Malir, a garrison district in eastern Karachi, was the new flashpoint Thursday when a funeral procession of an overnight victim was reportedly attacked by sniper fire.

After the incident, district residents stormed the local police station to register a case implicating workers of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), according to witnesses.

But the police refused to register the case and within minutes announced an indefinite curfew. Troops arrived, and the people were forced to return home, the witnesses said.

Sniper attacks were reported in a number of other areas.

Authorities used mosque public address systems to announce curfew restrictions in some districts, witnesses said, prompting people to rush to safer places carrying their belongings.

Wednesday's strike was called by the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement, which broke with the ruling PPP in October.

Assembly Condemns India for Kashmir Shooting

BK0702155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The National Assembly adopted a motion moved by Chaudhury Amir Hussain of the Islamic Democratic Alliance condemning the action of Indian rangers when they fired upon Pakistani citizens near Sialkot who were protesting the massacre of Muslims in Indian-held Kashmir.

The motion demanded that the government lodge a strong protest with India and bring the incident to the notice of the United Nations. It praised the steps taken by the federal and provincial governments for immediate relief of the affected people. The house also offered prayers for those who died in the incident.

Ishaq Khan: 'No' Design Against 'Any Country'

BK0702162590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reiterated that Pakistan has no aggressive design against any country and that it has been their consistent effort to improve relations with all neighbors. He was speaking on the occasion of the reequipment ceremony of No. 20 Air Superiority Squadron at the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] base, Rafiqi, today.

He said we have developed and maintained a strong defense capability, which is vital for national sovereignty, independence, and freedom. It is for these reasons that despite being a poor country, we have to divert a significant part of our modest resources to defense. We will continue to provide whatever resources are necessary to safeguard our independence, freedom, and honor.

The president expressed the confidence that with the induction of F-7 aircraft into the PAF, the air defense capability would be enhanced.

A demonstration of single-aircraft aerobatics and formation flypast was also held on the occasion.

'Military Deterrent Is Vital'

BK0802005690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1929 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 7 (AFP)—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Wednesday [7 February] that Pakistan should maintain a strong defence capability because of the current geo-political situation.

This defence ability should be capable of serving as a "credible insurance against aggression," he said speaking at a ceremony to equip a Pakistan Air Force squadron with Chinese F-7P fighter aircraft at Rafiqi base in Punjab Province.

He added that "a military deterrent is vital to our national sovereignty, independence and freedom."

In a reference to India, with whom relations are tense over the disputed northern state of Kashmir, Mr. Ishaq Khan said "we continue to make consistent efforts to improve relations with all our neighbours."

"We will continue to provide whatever resources are necessary to safeguard our independence, freedom and honour," the president said.

Mr. Ishaq Khan said the "provision of this highly modified F-7P aircraft by China, proves once again that extensive Pakistan-China defence collaboration will continue to the mutual benefit of both countries."

The number of planes deployed Wednesday was not immediately known. An F-7P was deployed at the same base in November last year.

The single-seat tactical fighter, which is a modified version of the Soviet MIG-21, was ordered from China in 1987 to eventually replace Pakistan's aging fleet of F-6 fighters.

Police Disperse Shiite Demonstrators in Peshawar

BK0602155790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] A protest demonstration was organized in Peshawar today in connection with the assassination of Allama Arif Hussain al-Hussaini at the appeal of the Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Fiqh-i-Jafria [Shiite religious group]. According to a press note, the participants of the demonstration began their disturbances at (Toda) Bazaar near Jail Bridge. The local administration assured all possible help in organizing a peaceful protest demonstration, but the demonstrators began throwing heavy stones, which was followed by shooting. When several policemen on duty were injured, authorities had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd. Many people were arrested, and firearms were recovered on the spot. The administration says that law and order will be maintained and that it has urged the right-thinking people to extend their fullest cooperation in establishing peace and order. NNNN

Sri Lanka

Helicopter Attacks Tamil Boats in Palk Strait

BK0702125990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Madras, India, Feb 7 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan helicopter gunship attacked six boats packed with Tamils fleeing to southern India, sinking five vessels, police said here Wednesday [5 February].

Some 135 people were on the six boats which set sail from the island's northern Jaffna peninsula around midnight Tuesday, a police officer said. One boat arrived Wednesday in the southern Indian port of Vedaranyam, in Tamil Nadu State, carrying seven bodies. Another died in hospital.

The police officer said the account of the attack was given by one of the seven survivors on the boat. He said all those on board the five sunken boats were believed to have been killed.

Official Denies Attack

BK0802114490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Sri Lanka yesterday totally rejected reports from Madras that Lankan security forces were in any way involved in attacking refugees fleeing violence in Sri Lanka. That is the farthest from the truth a high-ranking military official said. We have done nothing of the kind. He said that the wire service report from Madras last night was the information the authorities here have had that any such incident has taken place. If there had been such an incident, it could be something to do with the internecine fighting between the various Tamil groups. It certainly had nothing to do with the security forces, the military spokesman said.

EPRLF Says 'At Least' 95 Dead

BK0802133090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Madras, India, Feb 8 (AFP)—The party which runs Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province charged Thursday [8 February] that at least 95 Tamils were killed in a mid-sea attack by the island's navy and Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Fifty-five women, 27 children and 13 men fleeing to southern India's Tamil Nadu State died in the attack launched after midnight Tuesday, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said in a statement here.

A spokesman for the EPRLF said the victims' corpses had been washed ashore on Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur coast and appealed to the Indian Government to prevent future attacks. "Unless such attacks are stopped, the waters of the Palk Strait will be bloodied by the slaughter of Tamil refugees fleeing to Tamil Nadu," he said in this Tamil Nadu capital.

The Palk Strait is a narrow strip of sea which divides Sri Lanka from Tamil Nadu, where hundreds of Tamil refugees fleeing the island's northeastern areas have reportedly been arriving in recent weeks.

Police sources here had said Wednesday that a Sri Lankan helicopter gunship attacked a flotilla of six boats carrying 135 Tamils fleeing the Jaffna peninsula, sinking five vessels and killing an unknown number. The account was based on the testimony of a survivor.

One boat reached the Thanjavur coast Wednesday, carrying seven corpses and eight survivors, one of whom

later died in hospital. Police identified the eight dead as members of the EPRLF or their relatives. The victims included a four-year-old girl and a young woman.

Nineteen Sri Lankan Tamils sailed into the coastal town of Nagapattinam and were hospitalised Wednesday with bullet wounds, police said, but could not confirm if they were survivors from the sunken ships.

The police said they had no powers to investigate a mid-sea attack because it was beyond their jurisdiction. [passage omitted]